

Effective March 1, 2004  
to February 28, 2005

# TENNESSEE FISHING REGULATIONS 2004



Tennessee Wildlife  
Resources Agency  
[www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org)

*Bolt Hines*



# TWRA OFFICES

All Office Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Monday-Friday (local time)

## Central Office - Nashville

Ellington Agricultural Center	
P. O. Box 40747	
Nashville, TN 37204	615-781-6500
Boat Registration	615-781-6585
Boating Safety	615-781-6682
Director's Office	615-781-6552
Fisheries Division	615-781-6575
Law Enforcement	615-781-6580
Legal	615-781-6606
License Sales	615-781-6585
Personnel Division	615-781-6594
Quota Hunts	615-781-6621
Wildlife Division	615-781-6610

## West Tennessee - Region I

200 Lowell Thomas Drive	
Jackson, TN 38301	731-423-5725
Toll Free	1-800-372-3928
Fax	731-423-6483

## Middle Tennessee - Region II

Ellington Agricultural Center	
P. O. Box 41489	
Nashville, TN 37204	615-781-6622
Toll Free	1-800-624-7406
Fax	615-831-9995

## Cumberland Plateau - Region III

464 Industrial Blvd.	
Crossville, TN 38555	931-484-9571
Toll Free	1-800-262-6704
Fax	931-456-1025

## East Tennessee - Region IV

3030 Wildlife Way	
Morristown, TN 37814	423-587-7037
Toll Free	1-800-332-0900
Fax	423-587-7057

**TDD** (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) ..... 615-781-6691

**Website** ..... [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org)

## AFTER HOURS INFORMATION

For general information, the following numbers may be called between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and midnight.

West Tennessee - Region I	1-800-372-3928
Middle Tennessee - Region II	1-800-624-7406
Cumberland Plateau - Region III	1-800-262-6704
East Tennessee - Region IV	1-800-332-0900

## HELP STOP POACHING

### REPORT GAME VIOLATIONS

THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE FOR  
REPORTING GAME VIOLATIONS **ONLY**.  
**DO NOT CALL FOR GENERAL INFORMATION.**

CALL BETWEEN 7:00 A.M. AND MIDNIGHT  
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

<b>West Tennessee</b> (Region I)	1-800-831-1173
<b>Middle Tennessee</b> (Region II)	1-800-255-8972
<b>Cumberland Plateau</b> (Region III)	1-800-241-0767
<b>East Tennessee</b> (Region IV)	1-800-831-1174

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*Cover art by Robert W. Hines,  
compliments of US Fish & Wildlife Service*

This publication is not a legal document. It is a summary of fishing regulations. Detailed information on fishing regulations is available from all TWRA offices.

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# WHAT'S NEW AT A GLANCE

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## STATEWIDE

- Established a sport fishing season for paddlefish from April 24 to May 31. The daily creel limit is 2 fish per day with no size limit. Culling, the releasing of a harvested fish, is not allowed. (Note: The sportfishing season and regulations for paddlefish on Cherokee Reservoir are unchanged.)

## RESERVOIRS

- Reciprocal agreement allows Tennessee anglers to fish in Kentucky on part of Kentucky Lake (see page 17).
- Pickwick Reservoir – 15-inch minimum length limit for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass. Five bass daily limit (any combination). Tennessee waters only.
- Center Hill Reservoir – Removed 12-inch minimum length limit on spotted bass.
- Parksville Reservoir – 14-inch minimum length limit for largemouth bass.

## AGENCY LAKES

- Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness WMA ponds – Open to fishing year-round, during daylight hours only, continue “kids only” regulation.
- **Coy Gaither-Bedford Lake** does not have a concessionaire. Boat rentals and bait will not be available. A daily lake permit is required, but cannot be purchased at the lake. Anglers who need a permit should buy a Bedford Lake Daily Permit (Type #65) from a license agent in the surrounding 8-county area before arriving at the lake. Also camping is prohibited.

## FISH FOR POND STOCKING

TWRA provides fingerling largemouth bass and bluegill for stocking new or renovated ponds that meet minimum qualifications. To defray the cost of the program, a fee is charged, based on pond acreage. If you prefer, we can help you locate a commercial source for fish. Regardless of where you get your fish, the decision on who can or can't fish on your property is always up to the pond owner.

More information and applications are available from your local TWRA office and on the Agency's website.

## STREAMS AND RIVERS

- The following waters are closed to grabbling, grab hooking, snatching, tubbing, archery, spear-gun fishing, dipping, or gigging. Cast netting is permitted.
  - Doe Creek (Old Cabin Private Road downstream to Roan Creek)
  - Roan Creek (Mountain Lakes Estates Bridge downstream to Doe Creek)
  - Watauga River (NC state line downstream to Dry Hill Road Bridge)
- Hiwassee River (Apalachia powerhouse to Patty Bridge) – 14-inch minimum length limit for brown trout, 2 fish daily limit. Does not affect current quality trout fishing area regulations.
- Caney Fork River (Center Hill Dam to Cumberland River, including tributaries) – 18-inch minimum length limit for brown trout, 2 fish daily limit.

## ATTENTION TROUT ANGLERS SNAIL ALERT !

You may be destroying your favorite river. New Zealand mud snails have recently invaded many western trout fisheries. They can eat all the food that would normally feed the bugs that trout eat – and trout cannot digest them. The potential for these snails to destroy a trout fishery is real. Researchers believe that fishermen are spreading the snails throughout the west on their wading boots. To stop the spread of these and other exotics in Tennessee please clean the mud off of your boots and waders, and allow them to completely dry before entering new waters.

We have not documented New Zealand mud snails in Tennessee waters. But we should still be cautious. Even if you are not traveling out of state to fish you should still clean and dry your gear before moving to new waters within Tennessee. If one of our rivers is already infested, we do not want to spread them.

We need your help to keep these exotics out of Tennessee. Just one hitchhiking snail could ruin your favorite river forever!

# LICENSE INFORMATION

*Hunting and fishing license sales and federal excise taxes comprise 100 percent of the TWRA's operating funds. Thank you for buying a hunting and fishing license. Without you, Tennessee would not have the abundance of fish and wildlife that we all enjoy.*

Fishing licenses go on sale February 18 each year, the beginning of prime fishing, and are valid through the last day of February. You can purchase most licenses from county court clerks, sporting goods stores, hardware stores, boat docks, the TWRA website (tnwildlife.org) and all TWRA regional offices.

By calling 1-888-814-8972 you can get your Tennessee fishing and hunting licenses instantly. An authorization number will allow you to begin fishing or hunting the minute you hang up. Regular license fees plus a \$3.95 processing fee will be charged to your credit card.

You can also order your license by mail. Just send your name, address (including zip code), social security number, date of birth, physical features (height, weight, eye and hair color), and enclose the correct fee to: TWRA Sales Office, P.O. Box 41729, Nashville, TN 37204-1729.

## WHO MUST HAVE A TENNESSEE LICENSE?

If you take, or attempt to take fish (including crayfish) by any method or if you assist someone else to do so, you must have a valid fishing license. There are some exceptions:

### NO FISHING LICENSE NEEDED IF:

- You are under 13 years of age (resident or nonresident).
- Landowners, their spouses and children, who fish on their farm land which is owned by an individual or a family. Landowners, their spouses and children must be residents of Tennessee but need not reside on the land.
- Tenants, their spouses and dependent children who fish on farm land owned by an individual or a family. Tenants, their spouses and dependent children must be residents of Tennessee and must actually reside on the land and have permission of the landowner to fish. A tenant is a person who, for money, free rent, or other consideration, cares for farmland. The tenancy must be agricultural in nature.
- First cousins who own farmland jointly or in com-

mon may fish on the farmland. Their children may fish as well.

- You are on military leave, carrying a copy of your leave orders. A pass does not meet this requirement.
- You are a resident who was born before March 1, 1926. (To qualify for this exemption, you must carry proof of your age and residency to show to a wildlife officer, if requested.)
- It's Free Fishing Day! This year it falls on June 12.
- It's Free Fishing Week! All children, ages 15 and younger can fish free between June 12-18 inclusive.

## MISPLACE YOUR LICENSE?

If you misplace your fishing license, contact any license agent and ask for a duplicate license. There is a \$5.00 replacement fee (\$4.00 goes to the TWRA; \$1.00 to the agent).

*NOTE: Giving false information to obtain a license is a misdemeanor punishable by fine and loss of license. Licenses are not transferable.*

## RESIDENT LICENSES

### Can be purchased by:

- Persons who possess a valid Tennessee driver's license.
- Persons who have lived in Tennessee for 90 consecutive days with the genuine intent of making Tennessee their permanent home.
- Military personnel on active duty in this state and their immediate families, who reside with them.
- Students who are enrolled in a Tennessee school, college, or university for at least six months

**Annual Hunting & Fishing Combination (Type 001)** .....\$21.00

### **Jr. Hunt/Fish/Trap (Type 002)**

Ages 13-15 .....\$8.00

**One-Day Fishing (Type 021)** .....\$2.50

**Annual Trout (Type 022)** .....\$12.00  
(Type 022 is a supplemental license that is required to fish for trout in addition to Type 001, Type 020 or Type 021)

**Sportsman (Type 004)** .....\$101.00

An all inclusive license valid for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing without any state supplemental licenses or permits. Sportsman licenses can be purchased from all license agents.

**Lifetime Sportsman** ..... age determines the cost

An all inclusive lifetime license valid for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing without any state supplemental licenses or permits. Call your local TWRA office for application, or download an application from the TWRA website.

Type 401 (Under 3 years) .....	\$200
Type 406 (Ages 3-6) .....	\$400
Type 402 (Ages 7-12) .....	\$600
Type 403 (Ages 13-50) .....	\$1,200
Type 404 (Ages 51-64) .....	\$700
Type 405 (Ages 65 and over) .....	\$200

**Permanent Senior Citizen Hunt/Fish/Trap**

(Type 166) ..... \$11.00  
Available from any license agent for a one-time fee, and valid for the rest of the license holder's life. *Not a Lifetime Sportsman License*. Additional permits may be required. Can only be purchased when 65th birthday is reached. A valid Tennessee driver's license or proof of age and residency is required. A trout license is not required.

**Annual Senior Citizen Permit** (Type 167) ..... \$41

May be purchased as a supplement to cover all permits needed in the current license year

**County of Residence Fishing** (Type 020) ..... \$6.00

This license allows an angler to fish in his/her county of residence with natural bait (worms, crickets, corn, etc.), but not minnows. No artificial baits can be used. A supplemental license (Type 022) is required to fish for trout.

**The following licenses are available only by application from the TWRA Sales Office located in Nashville. They are available for a one-time fee and are valid for the rest of the license holder's life. They are not Lifetime Sportsman Licenses. Additional permits may be required. A trout license is not required.**

**Permanent Sport Fishing License for the Blind**

(Type 197) ..... \$10.00

**Permanent Wheelchair Hunting & Fishing**

(Type 189) ..... \$10.00

**Permanent DAV Hunting and Fishing**

(Type 198) ..... \$10

Available to resident veterans certified by the VA as 30 percent disabled by reason of war service.

**Permanent Mentally Challenged**

(Type 199) ..... \$10

Must be receiving SSI benefits due to mental retardation.

**NONRESIDENT LICENSES**

**Jr. Hunt/Fish** (Type 070) ..... \$6.00  
(Required for nonresidents age 13-15 fishing and small game only)

**Annual Fishing** (Type 076) No trout ..... \$26.00

**Three-Day Fishing** (Type 077) No trout ..... \$10.50

**Ten-Day Fishing** (Type 079) No trout ..... \$15.50

**Three-Day All Fish** (Type 078) ..... \$20.50

**Ten-Day All Fish** (Type 080) ..... \$30.50

**Annual All Fish** (Type 081) ..... \$51.00

**SPECIAL PERMITS**

If you purchase one of the following special permits, you must also have all applicable licenses.

**Reelfoot Preservation Permit-Annual**

(Type 089) ..... \$11.00

**Reelfoot Preservation Permit-Three-Day**

(Type 088) ..... \$6.50

**Reelfoot Preservation Permit-Daily**

(Type 090) ..... \$2.50

**Tellico-Citico Trout-Daily** (Type 098)

(Required for all ages. See page 12.) ..... \$3.50

**Agency Lake-Daily Permit** ..... \$3.00

**Agency Lake-Annual Permit** ..... \$30.00\*

\* Valid on all Agency lakes, this permit is sold at Agency Lake offices.

**Bedford Lake-Daily Permit** ..... \$3.00

**GATLINBURG TROUT FISHING -****Nonresident Gatlinburg One-Day Trout Permit**

(Type 097) ..... \$10.50

Only requirement for nonresidents ages 9 and up to fish in Gatlinburg for one day.

**Gatlinburg Trout-Daily** (Type 099) ..... \$2.50

Required for both residents and nonresident ages 9-64 in addition to the appropriate fishing licenses except for nonresidents who purchase the (Type 097) permit.

**Gatlinburg Three-Day Trout Permit**

Type (096) ..... \$6.50

Required for both residents and nonresident ages 9-64 in addition to the appropriate fishing licenses except for nonresidents who purchase the (Type 097) permit.

For information on fishing in the Gatlinburg area, contact the Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce, 520 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. Phone: 865-436-4558; 1-800-568-4748.



# LIMITS AND REGULATIONS

## STATEWIDE CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS

The following are the creel and size limits that apply across Tennessee. Statewide regulations apply unless exceptions apply to that body of water. **See exceptions on this page and pages 6-13.**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Creel Limit</u>	<u>Minimum Length Limit</u>
<b>Black Bass</b> , includes Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted and Coosa (Redeye) .....	5	None
No more than 5 black bass per day in any combination may be taken.		
<b>Crappie</b> (Black & White combined) ....	30	10"
<b>Rock Bass</b> .....	20	None
<b>Striped Bass or Cherokee Bass* (any combination)</b> .....	2	15"
(*Striped Bass-White Bass Hybrid)		
<b>White Bass</b> .....	30	None
<b>Muskellunge</b> .....	1	30"
<b>Sauger</b> .....	10	15"
<b>Trout</b> .....	7	None
(See Trout Regulations section on page 11.)		
<b>Walleye</b> .....	5	16"
<b>Yellow Bass, Bluegill, Bream, Pickerel, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, and nongame species</b> .....	No Limit	None
<b>Statewide Catfish Regulation</b> - Only one catfish over 34 inches may be harvested per day. No harvest limit on catfish less than 34 inches.		
<b>Paddlefish</b> - Paddlefish may be harvested from April 24 through May 31. Daily creel limit is 2 fish per day with no size limit. Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is not allowed. Cherokee Reservoir has different seasons and regulations (see page 6.)		

## POSSESSION LIMITS

The total possession limit is twice the daily creel limit. You may not have more than the daily creel limit with you while afield. It is unlawful to have, while afield, any fish which has been altered so that its species and/or total body length cannot be determined.

## LENGTH LIMITS & PLRs (Slot Limits)

The goal of TWRA's Fisheries Management Division is to manage each species of fish with statewide creel and length limits where possible. However, certain waters, because of their unique characteristics, require individual creel and length limits (see exceptions on this page

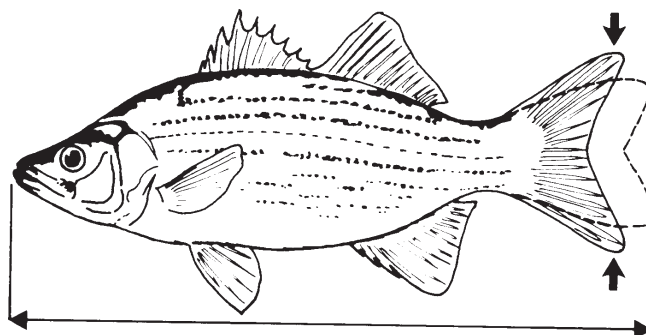
and pages 6-9). These limits allow a greater variety of anglers to enjoy our fisheries resources.

**Minimum length limits** restrict the harvest of fish below a specified minimum length. For example, a 15-inch minimum length limit allows the angler to keep fish 15 inches or greater. Fish less than 15 inches cannot be harvested. In waters where length restrictions are in place, anglers may not be able to harvest quite as many fish, but they will enjoy catching more fish - as many as two to three times more.

**Slot limits or Protected Length Ranges (PLRs)** allow anglers to harvest fish above and below a specified length range. For example, a 14-18" PLR protects fish in the 14- to 18-inch length group. Anglers may harvest fish that measure 14 inches or less and they may harvest fish that measure 18 inches or more. For a protected length range to be effective, anglers must harvest fish below the protected range.

## MEASURING A FISH'S LENGTH

Lay the fish on a flat ruler, close the mouth, and squeeze the lobes of the tail fin to produce the maximum length.



## EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS

Exceptions to the statewide creel and size limits or special restrictions that apply are listed alphabetically on one of the following pages. A spotted bass is a black bass and can be distinguished from a largemouth bass by the tooth patch on the central portion of the tongue (see page 22). Any walleye-sauger hybrid (saugeye) is considered the same as sauger.

All trout regulations can be found under the special Statewide Trout Regulations beginning on page 11. The TWRA Fishing Lakes regulations can be found beginning on page 9.

## EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE FISHING REGULATIONS ON TENNESSEE RESERVOIRS

**Reservoir full pool level is reservoir/stream boundary for harvest restrictions, unless otherwise noted.**

(Statewide regulations apply to all species not mentioned - see page 5.)

### **Barkley**

- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass - min. length 15"

### **Boone**

- Spotted Bass - 15 per day, no minimum length
- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass - 5 per day (any combination), minimum length 15" - Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass restrictions apply from dam upstream to Hwy. 11E bridge at Bluff City on South Fork of Holston River arm and upstream to new Austin Springs Bridge on the Watauga River arm.

- Crappie - 15 per day, minimum length 10"

### **Center Hill**

- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass - min. length 15"
- Walleye - A walleye run regulation is in effect on the upper end of the reservoir including Caney Fork River beginning at Rock Island State Park boat ramp and extending upstream to Great Falls Dam. Anglers are restricted to the use of one hook having a single point, or one lure containing a single hook with one point, from Jan. 1- Apr. 30. No more than 3 rods and reels or poles per angler may be used.
- Crappie - 15 per day, minimum length 10"

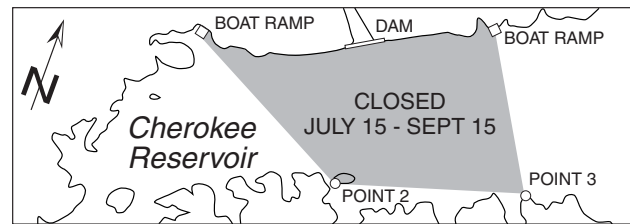
### **Cheatham**

- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass - min. length 14"

### **Cherokee**

- Spotted Bass - 15 per day, no minimum length
- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass - 5 per day (any combination), minimum length 15". Largemouth and smallmouth bass size restrictions apply from the dam upstream to the John Sevier dam (includes tributaries).
- Walleye and Sauger - 10 per day (any combination), minimum length 15"
- Crappie - 15 per day, minimum length 10"
- Paddlefish - 1 per day, minimum length 30" (eye to fork of tail) Mar. 1-15
- A closed fishing zone will be in effect from July 15 through September 15. This zone is enclosed by lines from the boat ramp at the south end of the dam across the lake to Point 2, from Point 2 to Point 3, and from Point 3 back across the lake to the TWRA boat ramp at the north end of the dam. All bank fishing will be open and the coves along the south-east shoreline will be open to boat fishing, but no

fishing for any species will be allowed in the described zone from July 15 through September 15.



### **Chickamauga**

- Largemouth Bass - minimum length 15"
- Smallmouth Bass - 1 per day, minimum length 18"

### **Chilhowee**

- Walleye and Sauger - 10 per day (any combination), minimum length 15"

### **Cordell Hull**

- Striped Bass - 2 per day, 32-42" PLR (only one fish may be over 42 inches)

### **Dale Hollow**

- All Species - 3 pole limit per angler from boat and 6 pole limit per angler from bank may be used.
- Largemouth Bass - minimum length 15"
- Smallmouth Bass - 2 per day, 16-21" PLR (one under 16" and one over 21") - includes Wolf River upstream to South Ford Road bridge.
- Trout - Apr. 1-Oct. 31, 7 per day (no more than 2 may be lake trout) and no size limit. Nov. 1-Mar. 31, 2 per day (in any combination), minimum 22".
- Walleye - A walleye run regulation is in effect for the east fork of the Obey from Compton boat ramp upstream to Hwy. 52 bridge. Anglers are restricted to the use of one hook having a single point, or one lure containing a single hook with one point, from Jan. 1- Apr. 30. No more than 3 rods and reels or poles per angler may be used.
- Crappie - 15 per day, minimum length 10"

**Douglas** - Reservoir boundary for smallmouth bass and crappie harvest restrictions to extend from Douglas dam upstream to the ENKA dam on the Nolichucky River and the mouth of the Pigeon River on the French Broad.

- Walleye and Sauger - 10 per day, minimum length 15" (any combination) includes tributaries
- Crappie - 15 per day, minimum length 10"
- Smallmouth Bass - 1 per day, minimum length 20"

### **Ft. Loudoun**

- Spotted Bass - 15 per day, no minimum length
- Smallmouth Bass - minimum length 18"
- Largemouth Bass - 5 per day (in combination with Smallmouth Bass), minimum length 14".
- Walleye and Sauger - 10 per day, minimum length 15" (any combination) includes tributaries

**Ft. Patrick Henry**

- Crappie - 15 per day, minimum length 10"

**Guntersville**

- Crappie - 30 per day, minimum length 9"
- Smallmouth Bass - 1 per day, minimum length 18"

**John Sevier**

- Spotted Bass - 15 per day, no minimum length
- Crappie - 15 per day, minimum length 10"

**J. Percy Priest**

- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass - min. length 15"

**Kentucky**

- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass - min. length 15".
- Sauger - 10 per day, minimum length 14"

**Melton Hill**

- Spotted Bass - 15 per day, no minimum length
- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass – 5 per day, minimum length 14" (any combination)
- Striped Bass - 2 per day, 32-42" PLR (only one fish may be over 42")
- Walleye and Sauger - 10 per day, minimum length 15" (any combination)

**Nickajack**

- Largemouth Bass - minimum length 15"
- Smallmouth Bass - 1 per day, minimum length 18"

**Normandy**

- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass - min. length 15"
- Walleye and Sauger (Saugeye) - 10 per day, minimum length 15" (any combination)

**Norris** (Fishing regulations for Norris Reservoir include tributaries and extend from the dam upstream to the the Hwy. 25E bridge on the Clinch River arm and upstream to Gap Creek on the Powell River arm.)

- Largemouth Bass - 5 per day (in combination with smallmouth bass), minimum length 14"
- Smallmouth Bass - 5 per day (in combination with largemouth bass), minimum length 18"
- Spotted Bass - 15 per day, no minimum length
- Crappie - 10 per day, minimum length 10"
- Striped and Cherokee Bass - In any combination
  - Apr.-Oct. - 2 per day, minimum length 15"
  - Nov.-Mar. - 1 per day, minimum length 24"
- Sunfish (Bream) - 30 per day, no minimum length
- Walleye and Sauger - 5 per day, minimum length 15" (any combination) - upstream to Grissom Island on the Clinch River.

**Old Hickory**

- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass - min. length 14"

**Parksville**

- Largemouth Bass - minimum length 14"

**Pickwick**

- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass - min. length 15"
- Crappie - 30 per day, minimum length 9"

**Reelfoot**

- Largemouth Bass - min. length 15"
- Crappie – 30 per day, no size limit
- Preservation Permit required
- The use of gasoline powered boats is prohibited in TWRA posted areas during April and May.

**South Holston**

- Walleye - 5 per day minimum length 18" - includes tributaries
- Crappie - 15 per day, minimum length 10"
- Trout - 7 per day, no size limit. Dec. 1-last day of Feb. closed to trout fishing

**Tellico**

- Spotted Bass - 15 per day, no minimum length
- Smallmouth Bass - 5 per day, minimum length 18"
- Largemouth Bass - 5 per day (in combination with Smallmouth Bass), minimum length 14".
- Walleye - 5 per day, minimum 15", only one of which can be 24" or larger - includes tributaries
- Sauger - 10 per day, minimum 15", (in combination with walleye) - includes tributaries

**Tims Ford**

- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass - min. length 15"

**Watts Bar**

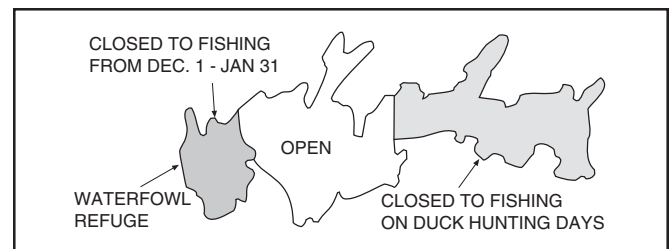
- Largemouth Bass - minimum length 15"
- Smallmouth Bass – minimum length 18"

**Watauga**

- Spotted Bass - 15 per day, no minimum length
- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass - 5 per day, minimum length 12" (any combination)
- Sauger - 10 per day, minimum length 15", includes tributaries
- Walleye - 5 per day, minimum length 18"
- Crappie - 15 per day, minimum length 10"

**Woods**

- See map below. (Certain areas are closed.)





## EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE FISHING REGULATIONS ON TENNESSEE STREAMS AND RIVERS

### **Buffalo Creek** (Grainger County)

- Closed to all fishing and minnow seining upstream from the mill dam.

### **Caney Fork River** (headwaters of Center Hill Reservoir)

- Walleye run regulation in effect on the upper end of Center Hill Reservoir, including the Caney Fork River beginning at the boat ramp at Rock Island State Park and extending upstream to Great Falls Dam. Anglers restricted to use of one hook having a single barb or lure containing a single hook with one barb from Jan. 1 through Apr. 30. No more than 3 rods and reels or poles may be used.

### **Clear Creek** (tributary to the Clinch River - Anderson County)

- Closed to fishing and minnow seining from Hwy. 441 upstream to the second dam (adjacent to the city of Norris water tower), as posted from Dec. 1 - Mar. 31.

### **Clinch River** (Norris Reservoir upstream to Grissom Island)

- Sauger and Walleye (in combination) – 5 per day, minimum length limit 15”

### **East Fork of the Obey River** (headwaters of Dale Hollow Reservoir)

- Walleye run regulation in effect on the East Fork of the Obey River from Compton Boat Ramp upstream to the Hwy. 52 bridge. Anglers restricted to use of one hook having a single barb or lure containing a single hook with one barb from Jan. 1 through Apr. 30. No more than 3 rods and reels or poles may be used.

### **Little Pigeon River** (from mouth upstream to the Great Smoky Mtns. Nat’l Park boundary, including the West Prong and East Fork of the Little Pigeon River)

- Smallmouth Bass – 1 per day, minimum length 20”

### **Mississippi River, Forked Deer, Hatchie,**

**Loosahatchie, Obion, and Wolf rivers** - (includes main channels, sloughs, oxbows, and all tributaries.)

- Crappie - 30 per day, no minimum length

### **Pigeon River** (from mouth at French Broad River upstream to North Carolina state line)

- Smallmouth Bass - 1 per day, minimum length 20”

### **Wolf River** (South Ford Road Bridge downstream into Dale Hollow Reservoir)

- Smallmouth Bass - 2 per day, 16-21” PLR (one under 16” and one over 21”)

## EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE FISHING REGULATIONS ON TENNESSEE SMALL IMPOUNDMENTS

Statewide regulations apply to all species not mentioned. (See page 5. For trout, see pages 11-15.)

### **Allen Branch Pond** (Cocke County)

- Catfish - 5 per day, no minimum length

### **Beech River Watershed Lakes**

- Catfish - 5 per day, minimum length 15”

### **Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness WMA Ponds**

- Designated as youth fishing ponds. Fishing is permitted for youths 16 years of age or younger who are accompanied by a non-fishing adult (18 years of age or older). Youths are limited to using one (1) pole or rod while fishing. Fishing is permitted from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

- Bluegill - 10 per day

- Channel catfish - 5 per day

- Largemouth Bass - catch and release only

### **Campbell Lake** (Maury County)

- Special regulations apply. See regulations posted at the lake.

### **Casper Lake** (Shelby County)

- Largemouth Bass - 2 per day, minimum length 16”

### **Catoosa Wildlife Management Area**

- All streams and ponds are open from Apr. 1 - Dec. 31, except on the dates of managed big game and turkey hunts.

### **David Crockett Lake** (Greene County)

- Crappie – 30 per day, no length limit

### **Doakes Pond** (on Norris Reservoir)

- The portion of Norris Reservoir known as Doakes Pond (a sub-impoundment), located adjacent to Hwy. 63 approximately 9 miles NE of LaFollette, is closed to fishing.

### **Federal Refuges**

- Some federal wildlife refuges have closed seasons. For details contact the office of the national wildlife refuge where you wish to fish.

### **Gooch Unit E Lake**

- Largemouth Bass - 5 per day, minimum length 15”

### **Hiwassee Refuge**

- Trespassing and fishing are prohibited in embayments and sub-impoundments from Oct. 15 - Feb. 28. Boats must remain within the river channel defined by navigational buoys.

### **Indian Boundary Lake** (in Cherokee National Forest)

- Largemouth Bass - 2 per day, minimum length 14”

- Catfish - 5 per day, no minimum length

- Crappie - 30 per day, no minimum length

### Kingston Wildlife Refuge

- Trespassing and fishing are prohibited in embayments and sub-impoundments from Oct. 15 - Feb. 28. Boats must remain within the river channel defined by navigational buoys.

**Land Between the Lakes** - All waters are open year round with the following provisions:

- Farm ponds are open to fishing unless otherwise posted.
- Bards Lake - Trotlines and limblines are prohibited. Jugs are permitted from Oct. 1 - Mar. 21, with a limit of 10 jugs per person.

**New Lake** (Lewisburg, in Marshall County)

- Largemouth Bass - 5 per day, minimum length 13"
- Crappie - 30 per day, no size limit
- Open one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Only rods and reels and cane poles permitted.

**Paint Rock Refuge** (on Watts Bar Reservoir)

- Trespassing and fishing are prohibited in embayments and sub-impoundments from Oct. 15 - Feb. 1. Boats must remain within the river channel defined by navigational buoys.

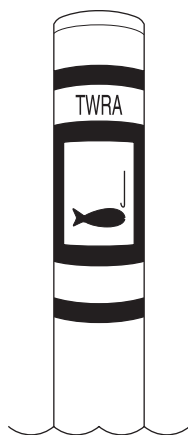
**Reelfoot Watershed Lake # 18**

- Largemouth Bass - 5 per day, minimum length 15"

### FISH ATTRACTORS

On many reservoirs the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, other government agencies, and local sportsmen have constructed hundreds of "fish attractors" which help put fish and anglers together. These underwater structures work by providing cover that attracts small fish, which in turn attract big fish, which attract anglers. They appeal primarily to crappie, but bass, bluegill, and catfish are also found in and around them. There is no guarantee that you will catch a fish from a fish attractor, but they are great places to start.

Anglers who wish to place fish attractors in public waters must obtain site and construction material approval from the appropriate water regulating agency (e.g. TVA, US Army Corps of Engineers, etc.) prior to placing the attractors.



### STATE PARKS LAKES

- Crappie - 30 per day, no minimum length
- Special regulations may apply to the lakes managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Contact your regional TWRA offices or the TDEC office (615) 532-0001.

**Travis McNatt Lake** (Big Hill Pond State Park)

- Black Bass - 10 per day, no minimum length

**Poplar Tree Lake** (Meeman, Shelby Forest State Park)

- Black Bass - 5 per day, 14-18" PLR, only 1 over 18"
- Bluegill and Redear Sunfish – 20 fish daily creel limit (in combination)

### TWRA FISHING LAKES

*(See chart next page)*

Eighteen TWRA managed lakes, located in Middle and West Tennessee, are open year-round. Some of these lakes are operated by private concessionaires under contract and offer complete services for the fishing public. The lakes are open to fishing all week.

**Hours:** Lakes will open one-half hour before sunrise and close one-half hour after sunset, except Garrett Lake which is open 24 hours a day.

**Permits:** A daily lake permit of \$3.00 (available at most lakes), in addition to the regular fishing license, is required to fish most of these lakes. All residents 16 through 64 years of age, except holders of a Sportsman License and Lifetime Sportsman license, and all nonresidents (regardless of age) must have this permit, which is obtainable at the lake office. Resident anglers 65 years of age and older do not need a lake permit, but do need a fishing license. A \$30.00 Annual Lake Permit may also be purchased at the individual lakes, and is good at all TWRA fishing lakes. **Coy Gaither-Bedford Lake** daily lake permit should be purchased from a license agent in the surrounding area before going to the lake.

**Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day:** When the lake office is closed, deposit the \$3.00 permit fee in an envelope just outside the office.

**Speed boating, water skiing and swimming are prohibited** (except in the recreational zone of Gibson County Lake). Houseboats, sailboats and inboard cruisers are prohibited. On Coy Gaither-Bedford, Marrowbone, VFW, and Williamsport lakes, only trolling motors can be used. Boats may be rented for \$5.00 per day at some lakes. There is no charge for boat cushions or paddles.

**Tackle:** Only rods and reels, poles, hand-held lines, and jugs may be used (see page 15 for jug fishing rules at TWRA lakes). Jugging is not allowed on Gibson County Lake. Cast nets are illegal on Agency lakes. Statewide creel and size limits apply with the following exceptions (pg. 10).

AREA/SPECIES	LIMIT	LENGTH RESTRICTION
<b>All TWRA Lakes (except Bedford, Laurel Hill and Williamsport)</b>		
Blue and Channel Catfish .....	5 .....	none
<b>Browns Creek Lake</b>		
Black Bass .....	5* .....	16-21" PLR*
<b>Coy Gaither-Bedford Lake</b>		
Largemouth Bass .....	5* .....	14-18" PLR*
Bluegill/Redear combination .....	20 .....	none
Blue and Channel Catfish .....	5 .....	14" min. length
<b>Davy Crockett Lake</b>		
Black Bass .....	10 .....	none
<b>Gibson County Lake</b>		
Largemouth Bass .....	1 .....	18"
Bluegill/Redear (in combination) .....	20 .....	none
<b>Glenn Springs Lake</b>		
Black Bass .....	5* .....	14-18" PLR*
Bluegill/Redear (in combination) .....	20 .....	none
<b>Herb Parsons Lake</b>		
Black Bass .....	10* .....	14-18" PLR*
<b>Lake Graham</b>		
Black Bass .....	10* .....	14-18" PLR*
<b>Laurel Hill Lake</b> - One embayment is for juvenile fishing only. Youths 16 and under may fish. Nursery ponds closed to fishing and trespass.		
Largemouth Bass .....	10* .....	14-18" PLR*
Bluegill/Redear combination .....	20 .....	none
Blue and Channel Catfish .....	5 .....	14" min. length
<b>Marrowbone Lake</b>		
Black Bass .....	5* .....	14-18" PLR*
<b>Williamsport Lakes</b> (4 lakes) - Whippoorwill Lake is for juvenile fishing only. Youths 16 and under and an accompanying adult may fish. Two additional ponds, Egret and Heron, are closed to fishing.		
Largemouth Bass .....	1 .....	20" min. length
Blue and Channel Catfish .....	5 .....	14" min. length
Bluegill .....	20 .....	none

\* Only 1 bass per day greater than the protected length range. See page 5 for explanation of PLR.

TWRA FISHING LAKES LOCATIONS AND FACILITIES	LICENSES SOLD	PERMIT REQUIRED	RENTAL BOATS	OUTBOARDS PERMITTED	LAUNCHING RAMP	FISHING PIERS	PICNIC AREAS	VENDING MACHINES	BAIT & TACKLE
<b>Brown's Creek Lake</b> - 731-423-5725. Henderson Co. 10 miles S of I-40 in the Natchez Trace State Park. 167 acres.		X	X	X	X	X	X		
<b>Carroll Lake</b> - 731-423-5725. Carroll Co. 4 miles E of McKenzie on Hwy 22. 100 acres.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<b>Coy Gaither-Bedford Lake</b> - 615-781-6622. Bedford Co. 10 miles SE of Shelbyville on Hwy 269. 47 acres.		X			X	X	X		
<b>Davy Crockett Lake</b> - 731-784-3889. Crockett Co. 5 miles W of Humboldt on Hwy 152. 87 acres.		X	X	X	X	X	X		
<b>Garrett Lake</b> - 731-423-5725. Weakley Co. 7 miles E of Dresden on Hwy 54. 183 acres.				X	X	X	X		
<b>Gibson County Lake</b> - 731-855-2990. Gibson Co. 5 miles E of Trenton off of Vaughns Grove Rd. 560 acres.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<b>Glenn Springs Lake</b> - 901-835-5253. Tipton Co. 12 miles NE of Millington on Glenn Springs Rd. 310 acres.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<b>Herb Parsons Lake</b> - 901-861-5087. Fayette Co. 15 miles N of Collierville on Collierville-Arlington Rd. 177 acres.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<b>Lake Graham</b> - 731-422-0950. Madison Co. 9 miles E of Jackson on Cotton Grove Rd. 500 acres.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<b>Laurel Hill Lake</b> - 931-762-7200. Lawrence Co. 15 miles W of Lawrenceburg on Hwy 64. 325 acres.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Maples Creek Lake</b> - 731-423-5725. Carroll Co. 4 miles N of I-40 in Natchez Trace State Park. 90 acres.		X	X	X	X	X	X		
<b>Marrowbone Lake</b> - 615-876-6012. Davidson Co. 6 miles N of Joelton off of Hwy 41-A. 60 acres.	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
<b>VFW Lake</b> - 931-762-7200. Lawrence Co. 12 miles W of Lawrenceburg off of Hwy 64. 22 acres.		X	X		X	X	X	X	
<b>Whiteville Lake</b> - 731-423-5725. Hardeman Co. 2 miles S of Whiteville on Hwy 64. 158 acres.				X	X	X	X		
<b>Williamsport Lakes</b> - (4 lakes) 931-583-2477. Maury Co. 8.5 miles NW of Columbia on Hwy 50. 164 acres total.	X	X	X		X	X	X		X



# STATEWIDE TROUT REGULATIONS

**Species** ..... Any combination of trout species

**Daily Limit** ..... 7

**Minimum Length** ..... None

**Exceptions:**

1. Only 2 trout in a creel may be lake trout
2. Minimum length limit for brook trout is 6 inches

## SPECIAL TROUT REGULATIONS

### South Holston Reservoir

- Closed to trout fishing from December 1 to the last day of February

### Dale Hollow Reservoir

- Apr. 1-Oct. 31: 7 per day (no more than 2 may be Lake Trout). No size limit.
- Nov. 1-Mar. 31: 2 per day (in any combination) minimum 22".

**Caney Fork River** (Center Hill Dam to Cumberland River, including tributaries)

- 18" minimum length limit on brown trout.
- Only 2 trout in daily creel limit may be brown trout.

**Clear Creek** (tributary to the Clinch River - Anderson County)

- Closed to fishing and minnow seining from Hwy. 441 upstream to the second dam (adjacent to the city of Norris water tower), as posted from Dec. 1 - Mar. 31.

**Hiwassee River** (Apalachia Powerhouse to Patty Bridge)

- 14" minimum length limit on brown trout.
- only 2 trout in daily creel limit may be brown trout.
- Also, see quality trout fishing areas on this page.

**Horse Creek** (Greene County) - That portion from the US Forest Service Boundary Line upstream to the junction of Squibb Creek

- Daily limit: 7 per day except from May 1-Sep. 30 daily limit is 2.

**South Holston River:** That portion from South Holston Dam to Hwy. 37 Bridge at Bluff City

- No trout between 16 and 22 inches may be harvested (16-22 PLR).
- Creel limit of 7 trout, any combination of species, only one trout may be over 22 inches
- Closed to all fishing Nov. 1-Jan. 31 in the following areas:
  - 1) Hickory Tree Bridge upstream to the confluence with Bottom Creek
  - 2) downstream point of Boy's Island (first island downstream of Weaver Pike Bridge) upstream to the top of the first island above Webb Road Bridge.

## QUALITY TROUT FISHING AREAS

### REGULATIONS

**Daily limit** ..... 2 trout

**Possession limit** ..... 2 trout

**Size limit** ..... 14" minimum length

- Use or possession of any bait is prohibited.
- Trout less than 14" in length may not be possessed within Quality Trout Fishing Areas.

### LOCATIONS

**Hiwassee River:** That portion of Hiwassee River from the L & N Railroad Bridge upstream to the U.S. Forest Service's "Big Bend Parking Area."

**Watauga River:** That portion of the Watauga River from Smalling Bridge downstream to the CSX railroad bridges.

**Polk County Streams** – Big Creek, Goforth Creek, Sheeds Creek, Spring Creek, Sylco Creek and their tributaries in Polk County

- Closed to fishing on Fridays from Mar. 1-Jul. 1 except for state and federal holidays
- Only one single hook lure or baited single hook is permitted.
- The use or possession of lures or baits with multiple hooks is prohibited.
- Fishing permitted from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
- Fishing equipment or tackle prohibited on the stream banks except during legal fishing hours.

## DELAYED HARVEST AREAS

In the areas listed below, the harvest or possession of trout will be prohibited during the catch-and-release season. During the catch-and-release season, only artificial lures are permitted and the use or possession of bait is prohibited.

**Paint Creek:** *Paint Creek Campground downstream to mouth at French Broad River:* Catch-and-release season is October 1 through the last day of February.

**Tellico River:** *Mouth of Turkey Creek downstream to the Oosterneck Creek Recreation Area:* Catch-and-release season is October 1 through March 14.

# TENNESSEE TROUT

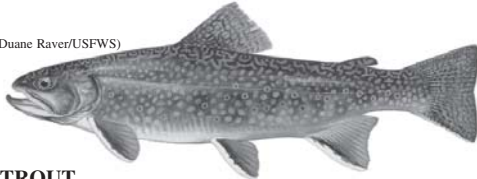
(illustration by Duane Raver/USFWS)



## RAINBOW TROUT

- Small black dots throughout the body that extend into the bottom of the tail
- Pink streak along the middle of the body

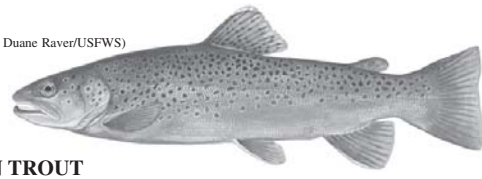
(illustration by Duane Raver/USFWS)



## BROOK TROUT

- Red, yellow or orange spots on the sides and belly
- Light, worm-like markings on a dark upper body
- White leading edge on lower fins
- Tricolor lower fins, leading edge is white followed by black and red

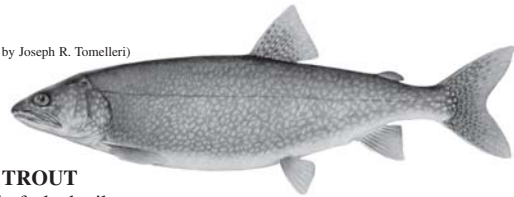
(illustration by Duane Raver/USFWS)



## BROWN TROUT

- Brown body with large dark spots and reddish dots, many having halos
- Tail slightly forked, no spots on the bottom of the tail

(illustration by Joseph R. Tomelleri)



## LAKE TROUT

- Deeply forked tail
- White leading edge on lower fins

## TROUT REGULATIONS ON CHEROKEE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

NAME OF STREAM  Only one rod or pole permitted per angler on the waters listed below except Calderwood	TELLICO-CITICO DAILY PERMIT REQUIRED	CLOSED THU/FRI EXCEPT STATE & FEDERAL HOLIDAYS	TROUT CREEL LIMIT	TROUT MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	HOURS OPEN	GEAR/TACKLE ALLOWED
<b>TELLICO RIVER</b> upstream from Turkey Creek to NC state line* <b>CITICO CREEK</b> upstream from Little Citico Creek* <b>GREEN COVE POND</b> - Fishing limited to handicapped** individuals, children under age 13, and adults 65 years of age and older.	3/15 - 9/15 3/15 - 9/15 Year-round	3/15 - 9/15 3/15 - 9/15 Year-round	7 7 7	6" Brook only	----- One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset -----	All All All - No minnows
<b>NORTH RIVER</b> and tributaries <b>BALD RIVER</b> and tributaries <b>NORTH FORK CITICO CREEK</b> and tributaries <b>SOUTH FORK CITICO CREEK</b> and tributaries <b>LAUREL FORK CREEK</b> and tributaries beginning at cable crossing 1/2 mile upstream from Dennis Cove Recreation Area and extending upstream <b>GEE CREEK</b> and tributaries in Polk County <b>WOLF CREEK</b> and tributaries in Polk County <b>BEAVERDAM CREEK</b> and tributaries from its confluence with Birch Branch downstream to Tank Hollow Road (USFS Rd. 6044) <b>PAINT CREEK</b> and tributaries in Greene Co. from USFS campground upstream to US Forest Service boundary line south of Hwy 70 near Munday Gap	No No No No No No No No No No No	No No No No No No No No No No No	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	6" Brook, 9" Brown and Rainbow		Only single-hook artificial lures and flies are permitted. Use or possession of multiple hook lures, or bait is prohibited. One single-hook lure separated from a legal lure by a length of line (e.g. a dropper fly) is also permitted.
<b>ROCKY FORK</b> and tributaries <b>HIGGINS CREEK</b> and tributaries <b>SQUIBB CREEK</b> <b>SARVIS COVE</b> <b>DRY CREEK</b> and tributaries (Greene Co.) upstream from US Forest Service boundary <b>SYCAMORE CREEK</b> and tributaries <b>ROUGH RIDGE CREEK</b> and tributaries <b>LITTLE JACOB CREEK</b> (Sullivan Co.) <b>LEFT PRONG HAMPTON CREEK</b> (Carter Co.)	No No No No No No No No No No No	No No No No No No No No No No No	7 trout, only 3 Brook trout	6" Brook, No size limit on Rainbow or Brown		
<b>SLICKROCK CREEK</b> that portion which constitutes boundary between NC and TN	No	No	4	All trout 7"		
<b>CALDERWOOD RESERVOIR</b> (limblines and trotlines prohibited) <b>ALL OTHER STREAMS IN CHEROKEE WMA</b> (not listed above)	No No	No No	7 7	None Gen. Reg.	24 hrs. 24 hrs.	All All

\* The possession of fishing equipment and/or tackle is prohibited on stream banks except during legal fishing hours.

\*\* Handicap - Any person who is mentally or physically impaired (including blindness) because of injury or disease, congenital or acquired, which permanently renders him/her so severely disabled as

to be unable to move without aid of crutches or a wheelchair, or a person who has 80% permanent impairment of a hand or arm as determined by physician using the standards outlined in the "Guide to Evaluation of Permanent Rating" published by the AMA or other accepted rating system.

## GATLINBURG TROUT FISHING

TWRA and the City of Gatlinburg offer a variety of trout fishing opportunities in four streams. All streams are closed on Thursdays each week. Some areas are managed especially for children 12 and under. All areas have special regulations and permit requirements (see page 4). For more information contact the Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce, 520 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. Phone 865-436-4558; 1-800-568-4748.

## GATLINBURG REGULATIONS

**WATERS OPEN:** The taking of trout is permitted within the streams designated below and under the limits and during of the times listed below.

### A. General Streams:

- West Prong Little Pigeon River from Park Boundary to Gnatty Branch except those sections set aside as Children's Streams.
- Dudley Creek from Park Boundary to West Prong Little Pigeon River, except those sections set aside as Children's Streams.
- Roaring Fork from the Park Boundary to West Prong Little Pigeon River.
- Leconte Creek from Painter Branch to West Prong Little Pigeon River.

### B. Children's Streams:

(May only be fished by children 12 and under)

- Leconte Creek from Painters Branch upstream to Park Boundary.
- West Prong Little Pigeon River from 100 yards above entrance of Herbert Holt Park downstream to Gatlinburg By-pass Bridge.
- Dudley Creek from Highway 441 Bridge to West Prong Little Pigeon River.

## SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS:

Fishing permitted year-round, except on Thursday, from 1/2 hour before official sunrise to 1/2 hour after official sunset. Fishing is permitted with one hand-held rod and single hook only.

### 1) From December 1 through March 31:

- Possession of any trout shall be prohibited.
- All trout caught must be immediately returned to the water.
- Use or possession of bait is prohibited. Use or possession of any artificial lures other than single hook artificial flies, spinners, and spoons is prohibited. The use of one dropper fly having a single hook which is separated from a legal lure by a length of line is permissible.

### 2) From April 1 through November 30:

- General Streams - The creel limit is five (5) trout per day.
- Children's Streams - The creel limit is two (2) per day for children twelve (12) and under.
- Total possession limit shall not exceed twice the daily creel limit
- While fishing or when afield, possession of more than the daily creel limit shall be prohibited, regardless of whether the trout are fresh, stored in an ice chest, in a vehicle, or otherwise preserved.

## GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Most of the streams in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park provide trout fishing opportunities. For detailed fishing information and regulations, contact Park Headquarters, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. (865) 436-1200.

## FORT CAMPBELL MILITARY RESERVATION

Several streams on Fort Campbell Military Reservation including Noah's Spring Branch, Little West Fork and Fletcher's Fork are stocked with rainbow and brown trout. Special fishing regulations apply and a Post fishing permit is required in addition to a valid Tennessee fishing license and trout stamp. For details, contact the Community Recreation Division, Hunting and Fishing Unit, Fort Campbell, KY 42223-5000; phone: (502) 798-2175.

## 2004 RESERVOIR TROUT FISHING

### RESERVOIR

Calderwood

Chilhowee

Dale Hollow

Fort Patrick Henry

Parksville

South Holston

Tellico (upper)

Watauga

### TROUT SPECIES

rainbow trout, brook trout,  
brown trout and lake trout

rainbow trout and lake trout  
rainbow trout and  
brown trout

rainbow trout

rainbow trout

rainbow trout and  
brown trout

rainbow trout

rainbow trout and lake trout



## 2004 TWRA TENTATIVE TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE

The dates listed are all Sundays. The stocking event will happen within five days after the date listed. Trout will be stocked according to this schedule. However, any stocking event could be postponed or cancelled due to unforeseen problems, such as adverse weather.

		WEEK OF:																																	
COUNTY	STREAM	FEB				MAR				APR				MAY				JUN				JUL				AUG				SEP					
		1	8	15	22	29	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19
REGION 1																																			
Houston	Hurricane Creek						X		X				X																						
Humphreys	Hurricane Creek						X		X				X																						
Humphreys	Tumbling Creek						X		X				X																						
Perry	Cane Creek						X		X				X																						
REGION 2																																			
Hickman	Mill Creek							X				X		X			X		X																
Lawrence	East Fork Shoal Creek							X				X		X			X		X																
Lawrence	Little Buffalo River							X				X		X			X		X																
Macon	Salt Lick Creek							X					X																						
Moore	Hurricane Creek							X				X		X																					
REGION 3																																			
Cumberland	Sequatchie River							X			X			X																					
DeKalb	Pine Creek						X				X		X																						
DeKalb	Sink Creek						X				X		X																						
Fentress	Wolf River							X					X				X																		
Grundy	Collins River						X				X		X																						
Grundy	Elk River						X				X																								
Hamilton	North Chickamauga Creek						X				X			X																					
Jackson	Flynn's Lick Creek							X			X		X																						
Marion	Pocket Creek						X				X		X		X																				
Marion	Little Sequatchie River						X				X		X		X																				
Marion	Sweeten Creek						X				X		X		X																				
Marion	Town Creek						X				X		X		X																				
Morgan	Flat Fork Creek			X		X		X		X																									
Overton	Standing Stone Lake						X																												
Pickett	Pickett Lake						X					X				X					X				X				X						
Polk	Big Creek*				X		X	X	X		X		X		X		X				X														
Polk	Goforth Creek*				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X														
Polk	Sheeds Creek*				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X													
Polk	Spring Creek*				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X													
Polk	Sylco Creek*				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X													
Polk	Tumbling Creek				X		X				X				X																				
Polk	Turtletown Creek							X					X				X					X													
Putnam	Calfkiller River						X				X			X																					
Rhea	Clear Creek					X					X																								
Rhea	Piney Creek					X					X																								
Scott	Conservation League Lake										X																								
VanBuren	Cane Creek						X				X			X																					
VanBuren	Laurel Creek						X				X			X																					
VanBuren	Rocky River						X				X			X																					
Warren	Charles Creek						X				X			X																					
Warren	Mountain Creek						X				X																								
Warren	North Barren Fork Creek						X				X			X																					
Warren	Upper Hills Creek						X				X																								
REGION 4																																			
Blount	Little River						X	X		X		X		X		X	X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X			
Campbell	Laurel Fork							X			X		X																						
Carter	Doe River			X			X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X														
Carter	Elk River							X			X		X		X		X		X																
Carter	Laurel Fork			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X												
Carter	Stony Creek				X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X																
Claiborne	Gap Creek						X		X				X																						
Claiborne	Tackett Creek						X		X		X		X																						
Cocke	Brush Creek						X		X		X		X																						
Cocke	Cosby Creek							X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X											
Cocke	Gulf Fork Big Creek						X	X	X		X		X		X		X		X																
Cocke	Trail Fork Big Creek						X	X	X		X		X		X		X		X																
Grainger	Buffalo Creek			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Grainger	Puncheon Camp Creek				X		X		X		X		X																						
Greene	Camp Creek				X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X												
Greene	Horse Creek				X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X												
Greene	Paint Creek			X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X											
Hancock	Richardson "Byrd" Creek				X		X		X		X		X		X																				X
Hawkins	Alexander Creek					X		X		X		X		X																					
Hawkins	Big Creek					X		X		X		X		X																					
Johnson	Doe Creek				X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X												
Johnson	Forge Creek						X				X			X				X																	
Johnson	Laurel Creek					X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X													
Johnson	Beaverdam Creek				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X												
Johnson	Upper Roan Creek					X					X						X																		
Monroe	Citico Creek**							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Monroe	Green Cove Pond***						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Monroe	Tellico River**							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Sevier	Middle Prong Pigeon River					X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X													
Unicoi	Clark Creek			X		X		X		X		X		X				X																	
Unicoi	North Indian Creek			X		X		X		X		X		X			X		X		X		X												
Unicoi	Rocky Fork			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X												

\* From Mar. 1-Jul.1 stream is closed to fishing on Fridays (except holidays). Only single hook lures or bait are allowed. Legal fishing hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. (See page 11.)

\*\* From Mar. 15-Sep. 15 water is closed to fishing on Thursdays and Fridays (except holidays) and a daily permit is required. (See page 12.)

\*\*\* Daily permit is always required. In addition to scheduled stockings, Green Cove Pond will be stocked as needed during winter. Closed Thursdays and Fridays year-round, except holidays. (See page 12.)

## TAILWATER TROUT

TWRA stocks fingerling and adult trout into coldwater tailwaters below dams to provide fishing opportunities. In many tailwaters trout fishing can be good year-round. Catchable size fish are stocked routinely during the following months. Use caution below dams. Call TVA at 1-800-238-2264 to check dam discharge and generation schedules.

TAILWATER	BELOW	SPECIES STOCKED	SCHEDULE FOR CATCHABLE-SIZE TROUT
Elk River	Tims Ford Dam	rainbow trout & brown trout	March through November
Duck River	Normandy Dam	rainbow trout & brown trout	March through June, November and December
Caney Fork River	Center Hill Dam	rainbow trout & brown trout	March through December
Stones River	J. Percy Priest Dam	rainbow trout	December through March (Trout fishing is only productive during the stocked period.)
Obe River	Dale Hollow Dam	rainbow trout & brown trout	January through December
Hiwassee River	Appalachian Dam	rainbow trout & brown trout	January through December
Ocoee River	Ocoee Dam #1 - Parksville	rainbow trout	March and April
Clinch River	Norris Dam	rainbow trout & brown trout	March through September
S. Holston River	S. Holston Dam	rainbow trout & brown trout	March through September
Watauga River	Wilbur Dam	rainbow trout, brown trout & brook trout	March through September
Wilbur Reservoir	Watauga Dam	rainbow trout	February through May
Holston River	Cherokee Dam	rainbow trout & brown trout	November through April
S. Holston River	Fort Patrick Henry Dam	rainbow trout & brown trout	March and April

## REGULATIONS FOR METHODS OTHER THAN ROD AND REEL

### TROT LINES, LIMBLINES AND JUGS

Trotlines consist of a main line with drop lines to which single hooks are attached. Drop lines must not be closer than 24 inches. All nongame fish may be taken without limit except paddlefish.

Trotlines, limblines and jugs must be tagged and/or marked with the owner's name and address. Trotlines attached to the bank must be tagged on the line within five feet of the bank. Other trotlines must be tagged within five feet of either end, and floating trotlines must be marked on floats. Limblines (including yo-yos) must be tagged above water level and are allowed only one hook per line.

Trotlines, limblines and jugs must be run at least once each day and are prohibited within 1,000 yards below any TVA or Corps of Engineers dam. Trotlines may not be set within 100 yards of the mouth of any river, creek or slough.

The holder of a sport fishing license may use trotlines and limblines provided the combined total number of hooks does not exceed 100, and only 25 hooks are limblines.

Sport anglers are limited to 50 jugs or blocks each.

#### Exceptions:

**Allen Branch Pond and Chilhowee (McKamy) Pond in Cherokee WMA** - Closed to jugs and trotlines.

**Bards Lake on Land Between the Lakes** - Closed to trotlines and limblines. Jugs permitted from October 1-March 21.

**Beech River Watershed Development Authority** - 20 jugs or blocks per boat. Trotlines prohibited.

**Calderwood** - Trotlines and limblines prohibited.

**Danville Railroad Bridge Dikes** - Trotlines prohibited within 50 yards of dikes.

**Indian Boundary Lake** - Closed to trotlines, jugs and limblines.

**New Johnsonville Steam Plant Harbor** - 10 jugs or blocks per angler. Trotlines prohibited.

**Norris Reservoir** - Trotlines, limblines and jugs are prohibited between River Mile 32 (Point 15) and Hwy. 25E Bridge on the Powell River arm and Between River Mile 137 (Point 31) and the Hwy. 25E Bridge on the Clinch River arm from January 1 through April 30.

**TWRA Lakes** - 10 jugs or blocks per boat daily except, from April 1-September 30, jug fishing is not allowed on Saturday, Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. Trotlines and limblines prohibited. *Exception: No jugging allowed on Gibson County Lake.*

### SLAT BASKETS

Holders of annual sport fishing license, Sportsman License, Lifetime Sportsman License, Jr. Fishing license, Lifetime Senior Citizens license or residents 65 and over (prior to March 1, 1991) or under 13 may fish with one slat basket, provided the slat basket is marked with a metal tag, obtainable from the TWRA for an annual fee of \$5.00. Possession or use of more than one slat basket is prohibited. A slat basket is defined as a device used for taking nongame fish only. Slat baskets may have only one outside funnel opening, and may be made of wood, plastic or cane slats which are placed lengthwise and so constructed that there must be a minimum of four openings in the catching area, each being at least 1-1/2" wide and

6" long. **Fish taken may not be sold.**

Slat baskets may not be set within 100 yards of the mouth of any river, creek or slough.

Applications for metal tags can be obtained by writing to: Administrative Services, TWRA, P. O. Box 40747, Nashville, TN 37204. If you are applying in person and need directions to the TWRA central office, call 615-781-6585.

## **GRABBLING, GIGGING, GRAB HOOKS, SNAGGING, TUBBING, ARCHERY, SPEAR-GUN, DIPPING AND CAST NETTING**

Non-game fish, except paddlefish and catfish, may be taken without limit; game fish may not be taken.

Season open year round in all waters **except:**

- a. where closed to fishing or expressly prohibited.
- b. within 100 yards below dams. At Pickwick Dam the closed area extends downstream to the first moorage cell across from ramp.
- c. at John Sevier Steam Plant the discharge channel is closed.

Exceptions **b** and **c** do not apply to cast netting or dipping.

**Cast nets** must be no more than 10 feet in radius with a mesh size no smaller than one quarter inch, and no larger than one inch on the square.

**Gigging** is prohibited in the following counties: Bedford, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Marshall, Maury, Wayne. Gigging is closed on the East Fork of the Obey River and its tributaries from Jan. 1 - Apr. 30.

**Snagging** is prohibited year round on the South Holston tailwater (from South Holston Dam to the headwaters of Boone Reservoir) and Center Hill Reservoir.

**Grabbling, gigging, grab hooks, snagging, tubbing, archery, spear-gun and dipping is prohibited on the following:**

- **Norris Reservoir** - between River Mile 32 (Point 15) and the Highway 25E Bridge on the Powell River arm and between River Mile 137 (Point 31) and the Highway 25E Bridge on the Clinch River arm from Jan. 1 - Apr. 30.
- **Elk River in Carter County** - from the Highway 321 Bridge downstream to River Mile 3.0 (Point 11) on the Elk River arm of Watauga Reservoir from Dec. 1 - May 31.
- **Doe Creek** - Old Cabin Private Road downstream to Roan Creek.
- **Roan Creek** - Mountain Lakes Estates Bridge downstream to Doe Creek.
- **Watauga River** - NC state line downstream to Dry Hill Road Bridge.

## **MINNOW TRAPS AND SEINES**

A legal minnow trap shall not have a mouth opening or openings that exceeds 1-1/2 inches in diameter. A legal minnow seine is a net having mesh size no greater than three-eighths inch on the square and no longer than 10 feet.

The catching of minnows for the purpose of sale in Cannon, Lincoln, Macon, Moore, Smith, Sumner, and Trousdale counties is prohibited. The possession limit on minnows is 250 per person in Lincoln and Moore counties and 150 per person in Cannon, Macon, Smith, Sumner, and Trousdale counties.

It is unlawful to sell, take for sale or offer for sale, Horneyhead (Stoneroller) minnows in Carter, Unicoi, Washington, Johnson, Morgan, and Sullivan counties.

## **SHAD TRAWLING**

Season is open year round. All waters are open except within 1,000 yards below any dam. Only threadfin or gizzard shad may be taken. A legal trawl is one having a mesh size no larger than 1-inch, a hoop diameter no larger than 48 inches, and a net length no longer than 72 inches. Fish taken may not be sold.

## **TURTLES**

Only the common snapping turtle may be taken. Snapping turtles taken by sport fishing methods may not be sold.

Snapping turtles may be taken by all legal sport fishing methods except archery and spearguns. Daily limit is 5 with a minimum legal length of 12 inches. (Length is determined by measuring the upper shell from front to back.) Sport fishermen may also take snapping turtles by the use of up to three hoop nets, with minimum net size of three inches on the square in Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Lauderdale, McNairy, Madison, Obion, Perry, Shelby, Stewart, Tipton, and Weakley counties. Each net must be marked with the name and address of the owner. Each net must be set so that a portion of the catch area is above the water.

On Reelfoot Wildlife Management Area all sizes and species of turtles, except box turtles or turtles listed as endangered or threatened or listed as "In Need of Management" by the TWRC, may be taken year-round with a combined daily limit of 5 for all species by legal sport fishing methods.

No turtle may be possessed while afield which has been altered to the extent that its species and/or length cannot be determined.

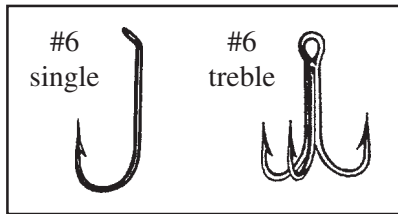


# GENERAL INFORMATION

## BASIC LAWS & DEFINITIONS

- Stocking of any fish into public waters is strictly prohibited.
- Explosives, chemicals and electrical shocking devices are strictly forbidden, and their use carries heavy penalties.
- Shooting in the water with any type of firearm to injure or take fish or turtles is prohibited.
- All boaters and passengers must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket within the area designated and appropriately marked as a hazardous area below any dam and/or lock.
- Crossbows are prohibited.
- It is illegal to take any fish or turtle that is endangered, threatened or listed as in need of management.
- It is illegal to sell or offer to sell fish or turtles without a commercial fishing license.

**Umbrella rig restriction** - Umbrella rigs are defined as an array of more than 3 artificial lures or baits (with or without hooks) used by a single rod and reel combination. If the hook size is 6 or larger, then only one lure or bait may have a hook and that hook must be a single hook.



**Single hook** - a hook with only one point.

**Bait** - Any living or dead organism, or prepared substance designed to attract fish by taste or odor. For the purpose of this proclamation bait includes, but is not limited to, fish, fish eggs, crayfish, worms, grubs, crickets, corn, cheese, bread, pork rinds, putty or paste-type products, and flavors or scents applied to or impregnated into artificial lures.

## RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

Tennessee has several reciprocal agreements with adjacent states. These agreements have been arranged so that any fishing license from either Tennessee or the corresponding state is valid in the following waters.

### ALABAMA/MISSISSIPPI: Pickwick Lake -

Applies to anyone with a valid Sport Fishing License from Tennessee, Alabama or Mississippi. Resident anglers of the three states may fish without purchasing a nonresident license anywhere within the boundaries covered by the agreement. The

reciprocal area includes all impounded water from Pickwick Dam upstream to Tennessee River Mile 224.8 at the mouth of Bear Creek but does not include Bear Creek and does not include that portion of Yellow Creek above the Hwy. 25 Bridge. Sport fishing license holders shall abide by the regulations of the state in whose waters they are fishing.

**ARKANSAS:** The flowing waters of the **Mississippi River**, adjacent sloughs, bayous and old river runs, which are accessible by boat from the river proper, and the old river chutes forming a common boundary, *excluding* all wildlife management areas established by either state and the Wolf, Loosahatchie, Hatchie, Forked Deer and Obion rivers. Creel limits and other regulations of the state where the license was issued apply.

**KENTUCKY: Dale Hollow Lake** - Sportfishing licenses from either state are recognized in Wolf River including Illwill Creek, beginning at a line crossing the Wolf River at its mouth where it joins the Obey River. Creel limits and other regulations of the state where the license was issued apply. **Big South Fork of the Cumberland River** - Sportfishing licenses from either state are recognized from Leatherwood Ford Bridge (Hwy. 279) in Tennessee, downstream to the Hwy. 92 bridge at Yamacraw, Kentucky. Creel limits and other regulations of the state where the license was issued apply. **Kentucky Lake** - Each state will recognize the sport fishing licenses for the other state on the portion of Kentucky Lake south of the Eggners Ferry Bridge (US 68 & Hwy. 80) in Kentucky and north of the Governor Ned McWherter Bridge (US 79 & Hwy. 76) in Tennessee. This includes all embayments and tributaries within this portion of Kentucky Lake except the Blood River embayment. Blood River embayment shall be defined as a straight line between opposite points where the embayment connects to the main body of Kentucky Lake. A sport fishing license holder from either state may fish from the bank or attach legal sport fishing trot or limb lines in this described portion of Kentucky Lake. Sport fishing license holders shall abide by the regulations of the state in whose waters they are fishing. Wildlife enforcement officials in either state shall have the right to inspect the licenses, permits, catches and equipment of any person on this portion of Kentucky Lake subject to the laws of either state.

**MISSOURI:** Persons possessing a valid sportfishing license in either state may fish in the Mississippi River and its backwaters within the boundaries of the other state and any oxbow lakes through which the Missouri-Tennessee boundary passes. They may fish from or attach any device or equipment to land under the jurisdiction of the other state. Persons licensed in only one state may not fish in the Mississippi River tributaries of the other state. Anglers must comply with the fishing regulations of the state where they are fishing and when fishing where they are not licensed will comply with the most restrictive state's regulation. Persons legally exempted from license requirements of either state are entitled to these privileges and provisions.

Except where it is shown to be elsewhere, the center of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigation channel will be the boundary between Tennessee and Missouri.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** All of **Calderwood Reservoir** while fishing from a boat and in that portion of Slickrock Creek which constitutes the boundary between the two states. (See chart on page 12 for trout regulations on Calderwood Reservoir and Slickrock Creek.)

#### **GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL**

**PARK:** A valid fishing license obtained from the state of Tennessee or the state of North Carolina is required and honored throughout the park for all persons 13 years of age and older. A Tennessee trout license is not required. The National Park Service sets fishing regulations within the park. For detailed fishing information, contact Park Headquarters, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. (865) 436-1200.

#### **CATCH-AND-RELEASE AND SELECTIVE HARVEST**

As fishing pressure continues to increase on Tennessee waters each year, catch and release and selective harvest will become more important to anglers of our state. Catch and release is probably understood by most avid anglers. It simply means releasing all fish that are caught.

Selective harvest is a newer concept in recreational fishing and may need to be explained. Selective harvest involves the concept of catch and release, emphasizing particularly the release of large fish that are rare in the population. However, selective harvest takes into account the need to keep occasional fish to eat. It accepts that harvesting fish, particularly smaller fish, is part of fishing but it also recognizes that each and every angler is a steward of our state's fisheries resource and therefore responsible for the quality of the fishery he or she leaves

behind. Knowing when, where, what size and how many fish to keep is part of being a knowledgeable angler. By limiting your harvest as a result of personal commitment, you assure a higher quality recreational fishing experience for all anglers now and in the future.

#### **HOW TO RELEASE FISH:**

Releasing the fish you catch works only when the fish survives to be caught again. Here are a few guidelines to keep in mind to give your fish the best chance of survival.

- Do not play the fish to exhaustion.
- Do not let fish flop around on the ground or in the boat.
- Be sure to keep fish you will release in the water at all times.
- Before handling fish, be sure your hands are wet to avoid removing the protective slime from the fish's scales or skin. A fish's slime protects it from bacterial and fungal infections.
- Handle them gently to avoid damage to internal organs and carefully remove hooks, preferably with forceps or pliers.
- If hooks are deeply imbedded or swallowed, cut your line.
- When possible land fish with a lip hold.
- When using a lip hold, do not hold the fish horizontally. This can damage jaw bones and muscles.
- Avoid using an abrasive, knotted landing net that will damage scales and skin.
- Gently release the fish back into the water.

As for the fish you plan to keep, place them on ice immediately. Fish kept on a stringer become stressed and often die. During this period they can acquire off flavors or spoil, particularly in late spring and summer.

#### **FREE FISHING WEEK FOR KIDS**

Get a youngster hooked on fishing this year! Beginning on Free Fishing Day (Saturday, June 12) and running through the following Friday (June 18), all boys and girls ages 13 through 15 may fish without a license! Be sure to take advantage of this great opportunity to introduce a child to the joys and excitement of a day on the water catching fish!

Fishing is a great way of making people environmentally aware while having fun. Contact your regional TWRA office and find out what's going on in your area or let them know you are interested in sponsoring or volunteering to help with an event.

*Note: Free Fishing Day and Free Fishing Week apply to Tennessee's public waters, Agency owned and operated lakes and state parks facilities. Some privately owned, pay lakes continue to charge during this special day and week. Please consult with lake operators if you have any questions about the status of a particular facility.*

# TENNESSEE ANGLING RECORDS

## CLASS "A" SPORT FISHING - AS OF JANUARY 1, 2004

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ANGLER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Coosae (Redeye) Bass	1 lb. 15 oz.	Parksville Reservoir	Harry E. Parker	8/18/91
Smallmouth Bass*	11 lbs. 15 oz.	Dale Hollow Reservoir	D. L. Hayes	7/9/55
Largemouth Bass	14 lbs. 8 oz.	Sugar Creek, (Lawrence County)	Logue Barnett	10/17/54
Spotted Bass	5 lbs. 8 oz.	Center Hill Reservoir	Gary Martin	2/4/89
Striped Bass (rockfish)	65 lbs. 6 oz.	Cordell Hull Reservoir	Ralph H. Dallas	5/1/00
White Bass	5 lbs. 10 oz.	Mississippi River	Bill Nelson	9/29/03
Cherokee Bass (Hybrid)	23 lbs. 3 oz.	Stones River	Ray Pelfrey	4/17/98
Yellow Bass	2 lbs. 9 oz.	Duck River (near Waverly, TN)	John T. Chappell	2/27/98
Brook Trout	3 lbs. 14 oz.	Hiwassee River	Jerry Wills	8/15/73
Brown Trout	28 lbs. 12 oz.	Clinch River	Greg Ensor	8/30/88
Cutthroat Trout	6 oz.	Obey River (Dale Hollow tailwater)	Philip Neyman	6/1/69
Rainbow Trout	16 lbs. 15 oz.	Ft. Patrick Henry Reservoir	Ronnie Rowland	9/6/02
Ohrid Trout	14 lbs. 5 oz.	Watauga Reservoir	Richard Lynn Carter	3/28/86
Lake Trout	20 lbs. 1 oz.	Watauga Reservoir	Eddy Southerland	4/2/94
Black Crappie	4 lbs. 4 oz.	Brown's Creek Lake	Clyde Freeman	3/23/85
White Crappie	5 lbs. 1 oz.	Garner Brown's Pond (Dickson County)	Bill Allen	4/20/68
Yellow Perch	1 lb. 15 oz.	Hiwassee River	Danny Casson	12/6/92
	1 lb. 15 oz.	Melton Hill	David C. Lyons	8/25/96
Sauger	7 lbs. 6 oz.	Kentucky Reservoir (Pickwick tailwater)	Rayford D. Voss	2/19/73
Saugeye	10 lbs. 12 oz.	Melton Hill Reservoir	Chris Vittetoe	7/18/98
Walleye*	25 lbs.	Old Hickory Reservoir	Mabry Harper	8/3/60
Northern Pike	24 lbs. 8 oz.	South Holston Reservoir	Frank Childers	3/28/95
Muskellunge	42 lbs. 8 oz.	Norris Reservoir	Kyle F. Edwards	4/27/83
Chain Pickerel	7 lbs. 7 oz.	Kentucky Reservoir	Burke Williams	2/2/91
Bluegill	3 lbs.	Farm Pond (Bledsoe County)	Brad Pendergrass	12/19/87
	3 lbs.	Fall Creek Falls Creek	Thelma Grissom	6/27/77
Pumpkinseed	5 oz.	Dogwood Lake	Lynn Middleton	6/14/98
Green Sunfish	1 lb. 4 oz.	North Cross Creek	Dwight M. Lehman	6/8/91
Longear Sunfish	13 oz.	Pond (Overton County)	Kay Forsberg	5/15/85
Redbreast Sunfish	1 lb. 5 oz.	Holston River	R. W. Gillespie	6/22/74
Redear Sunfish	3 lbs. 6 oz.	Private Pond	Annelise S. Houston	9/1/79
Rock Bass	2 lbs. 8 oz.	Stones River	Bill Sanford	1958
Warmouth	1 lb. 12 oz.	Nolichucky River	Frank E. Garrett	5/26/84
Flier	8 oz.	Kentucky Reservoir	Craig Ellis	6/8/01
Orangespotted Sunfish	5 oz.	Nolichucky River	Donald Daryl Fox	5/30/82
Channel Catfish	41 lbs.	Fall Creek Falls Lake	Clint Walters, Jr.	7/30/82
Flathead Catfish	85 lbs. 15 oz.	Hiwassee River	Larry Kaylor	7/25/93
Blue Catfish	112 lbs.	Lock C, Cumberland River	Robert E. Lewis	6/7/98
Brown Bullhead	2 lbs. 14 oz.	Chickamauga Reservoir	John Thomas Hammond	6/5/80
Black Bullhead	3 lbs. 6 oz.	Emberton's Pond (Cannon County)	Hunter Chance Gaither	2/20/97
Yellow Bullhead	4 lbs. 8 oz.	Chickamauga Reservoir	Jessie R. Johnson	4/21/79
Bigmouth Buffalo	52 lbs. 2 oz.	Percy Priest Reservoir	Greg Megibben	4/6/01
Smallmouth Buffalo	62 lbs. 7 oz.	Percy Priest Reservoir	Jerry W. Young	4/28/01
Black Buffalo	55 lbs. 8 oz.	Cherokee Reservoir	Ed H. McLain	5/3/84
Longnose Gar	38 lbs. 3 oz.	Barkley Reservoir	Mathew A. Norton	4/19/02
Shortnose Gar	6 lbs. 6 oz.	Kentucky Reservoir	Kay Lynn Butterfield	6/15/01
Spotted Gar	9 lbs. 5 oz.	Cross Creeks	Victor Robinson	6/27/99
Golden Shiner	15 oz.	Chickamauga Reservoir	Dave Littlejohn	3/26/99
Skipjack Herring*	3 lbs. 12 oz.	Watts Bar Reservoir	Paul D. Goddard	2/14/82
Common Carp	42 lbs. 8 oz.	Boone Reservoir	Al Moore	8/12/56
Bighead Carp*	73 lbs. 8 oz.	Reelfoot Lake	Michael C. Hicks	5/7/03
Israeli Carp	53 lbs.	Marrowbone Lake	John R. Pepper, Jr.	5/21/97
Freshwater Drum	54 lbs. 8 oz.	Nickajack Reservoir	Benny Hull	4/20/72
Paddlefish	75 lbs.	Center Hill Reservoir	Shane S. Henry	4/28/84
Bowfin	15 lbs. 7 oz.	Reelfoot Lake	Charles Aaron	6/22/83
River Redhorse	11 lbs.	Duck River	Cliff Crowell	4/6/93
Golden Redhorse	2 lbs. 9 oz.	Elk River	K. Daniel Boone	10/10/98
Silver Redhorse	3 lbs. 7 oz.	Nolichucky River	James E. Moore	3/15/02
Creek Chub	3 oz.	Roan Creek	Danny Kurtilla	3/13/00
	3 oz.	White Oak Creek	Thomas R. Gould	7/23/03
Central Stoneroller (Hornyhead)	10 oz.	Hiwassee River	Roy S. King	5/1/83
White Sucker	1 lb. 7 oz.	Nolichucky River	Max Moore Jr.	3/15/02
Goldeye	14 oz.	Cumberland River	Harold A. Sanders	4/17/93
Mooneye	14 oz.	Hiwassee River	Alan S. Cantrell	4/12/90
Highfin Carpsucker	1 lb. 9 oz.	Kentucky Reservoir (Pickwick tailwater)	Jim Youmans	2/28/80
White Amur	67 lbs.	Norris Reservoir	Billy Greenlee	4/13/99

(\*World Record)



## HOW TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A STATE RECORD CERTIFICATE:

1. The fish must be weighed on certified scales.
2. Two witnesses, one of which must be the scale operator/owner, must sign the application certifying they have observed the declared weight.
3. It is the responsibility of the angler to contact a TWRA Fisheries Biologist for positive identification of the fish. The fish should be frozen until positively identified.
4. Only two hybrid classifications, the Cherokee Bass (striped bass x white bass) and the saugeye (walleye x sauger), will be considered for a state record certificate.
5. The completed application must be forwarded to the TWRA Fisheries Management Division within 30 days of the catch in order to be considered for a state record certificate.



## DO YOU FISH BASS TOURNAMENTS?

- What is the average size bass weighed in for tournaments?
- How many hours does it take to catch a 5 pound bass?
- What lake in Tennessee has the highest bass catch rate?
  - What is the bass catch rate of tournament anglers?

If you would like to know the answers to these questions and a lot more, join the TWRA B.I.T.E. program!

For more information, contact:  
BITE Program  
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency  
Fisheries Management Division  
P.O. Box 40747  
Nashville, TN 37204  
(615) 781-6577

## FEDERAL AID (WALLOP-BREAUX) PROJECTS

The TWRA's fisheries management programs are funded from license sales and by federal aid money received through the Federal Aid to Sport Fish Restoration Program (Wallop-Breaux). The federal aid money is generated by an excise tax paid by anglers on various kinds of fishing equipment and taxes collected on marine fuel. The money is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and can be spent only under their guidelines.

Currently the TWRA projects funded by federal aid include:

- renovation of fish hatcheries to increase production
- fishing piers designed to accommodate handicapped anglers
- renovation and construction of boat ramps across the state
- acquisition of stream access sites
- evaluation of length limits and stocking success on reservoirs and streams
- stream and river habitat improvement projects
- statewide construction and maintenance of fish attractors
- habitat protection which includes investigating pollution problems
- fish population surveys on reservoirs, lakes, and streams

## WATER RELEASE SCHEDULES FOR DAMS

Water release schedules of TVA and Corps of Engineers dams and observed lake elevations of TVA impoundments can be determined by calling one of the following numbers:

865-632-2264 from Knoxville

423-751-2264 from Chattanooga

1-800-238-2264 from any other location

or on the internet: [www.lakeinfo.tva.gov](http://www.lakeinfo.tva.gov)

For information on lake elevations of Corps of Engineers impoundments, call:

J. Percy Priest Lake ..... 615-883-2351

Old Hickory Lake ..... 615-824-7766

Cordell Hull Lake ..... 615-735-1050

Center Hill Lake ..... 931-858-4366

Dale Hollow Lake ..... 931-243-3408

Lake Barkley ..... 270-362-8430

Cheatham Lake ..... 615-883-2351

Websites ..... [www.orn.usace.army.mil](http://www.orn.usace.army.mil) (Nashville)

..... [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil) (National)

# CONTAMINANTS IN FISH

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Pollution Control issues advisories for consumption of fish from certain Tennessee waters. These fish contain potentially hazardous contaminants.

High risk groups such as children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers should avoid consumption of contaminated fish. Because adverse health effects for normal risk groups are considered to be a result of routine and long-term exposure, an infrequent meal of listed fish is not believed to have a measurable health risk.

Health risks can be substantially reduced by taking a few precautions. Big fish tend to have higher concentra-

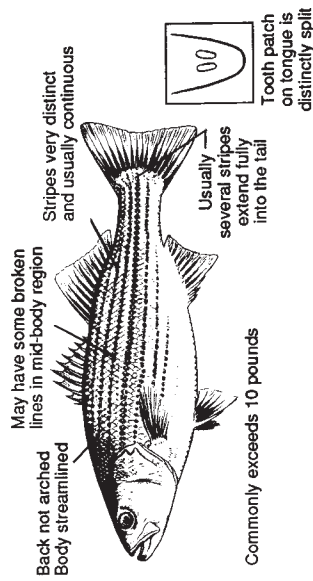
tions of toxic materials than smaller ones since they are older and have had more time to accumulate them. Many toxic materials are stored in fatty tissues, so when cleaning fish remove and discard the belly flap and fatty strip along the backbone and lateral line. Filleting the fish and removing the skin is also advisable. Broiling, baking, or grilling provides additional risk reduction. These risk reduction suggestions do not reduce health risks related to mercury.

For specific information regarding aquatic contaminants or affected waters, contact your regional TWRA office or the Water Pollution Control (Environment and Conservation) office at (615) 532-0699.

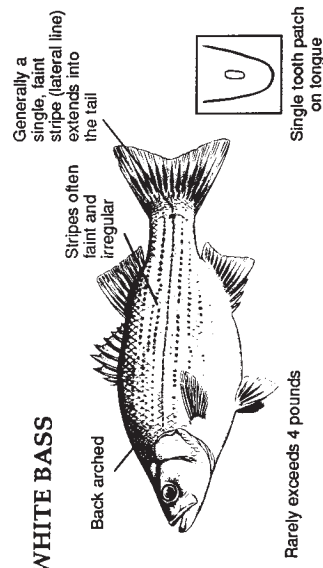
CURRENT FISH ADVISORIES				
STREAM	COUNTY	PORTION	POLLUTANT	COMMENTS
Loosahatchie River	Shelby	Mile 0.0-20.9	Chlordane	Fish should not be eaten.
Wolf River	Shelby	Mile 0.0-18.9	Chlordane	Fish should not be eaten.
Mississippi River	Shelby	MS line to mile 745	Chlordane	Fish should not be eaten. Commercial fishing prohibited by TWRA.
McKellar Lake & Nonconnah Creek	Shelby	Mile 0.0-108	Chlordane	Fish should not be eaten. Advisory ends at Horn Lake Road bridge.
N. Fork Holston River	Sullivan, Hawkins	Mile 0.0-6.2	Mercury	Fish should not be eaten. Advisory goes to TN/VA line.
E. Fork of Poplar Creek incl. Poplar Ck. embayment	Anderson, Roane	Mile 0.0-15.0	Mercury, PCBs	Fish should not be eaten. Avoid contact with water also.
Chattanooga Creek	Hamilton	Mouth to GA line	PCBs, chlordane	Fish should not be eaten. Avoid contact with water also.
Woods Reservoir	Franklin	Entirety	PCBs	Catfish should not be eaten.
Fort Loudoun Reservoir	Loudon, Knox Blount	Entirety (46 mi.)	PCBs	Commercial fishing for catfish prohibited by TWRA. Catfish, largemouth bass over two pounds, or any largemouth bass from the Little River embayment should not be eaten.
Tellico Lake	Loudon, Monroe	Entirety	PCBs	Catfish should not be eaten.
Melton Hill Reservoir	Knox, Anderson	Entirety	PCBs	Catfish should not be eaten.
Watts Bar Reservoir	Roane, Meigs, Rhea & Loudon	TN river portion	PCBs	Catfish, striped bass, hybrid striped bass and white bass should not be eaten. Precautionary advisory* for sauger, carp, smallmouth buffalo, and largemouth bass.
Watts Bar Reservoir	Roane, Anderson	Clinch River arm	PCBs	Striped bass should not be eaten. Precautionary advisory for catfish and sauger.*
Boone Reservoir	Sullivan, Washinton	Entirety	PCBs, chlordane	Precautionary advisory for carp and catfish.*
Nickajack Reservoir	Hamilton, Marion	Entirety	PCBs	Precautionary advisory for catfish.*
*Precautionary Advisory - Children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers should not eat the fish species named. All other persons should limit consumption of the named species to one meal per month				

# IDENTIFYING YOUR FISH

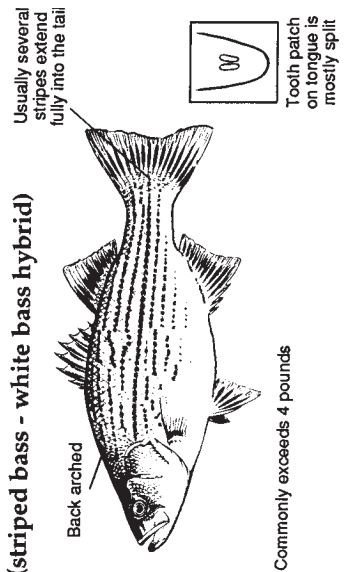
## STRIPED BASS (Striper or Rockfish)



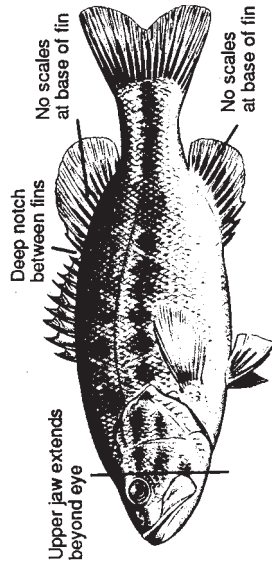
## WHITE BASS



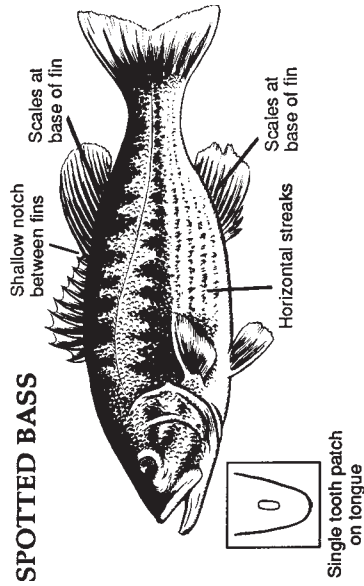
## CHEROKEE BASS (striped bass - white bass hybrid)



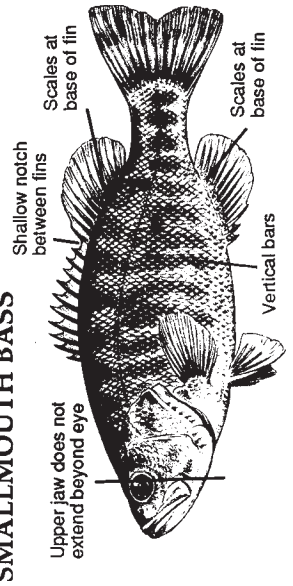
## LARGEMOUTH BASS



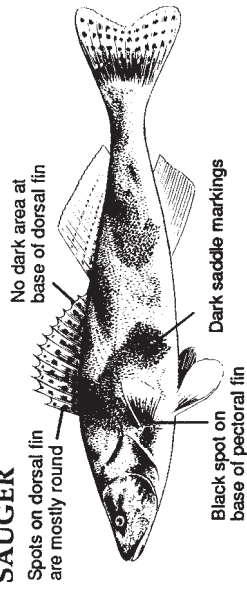
## SPOTTED BASS



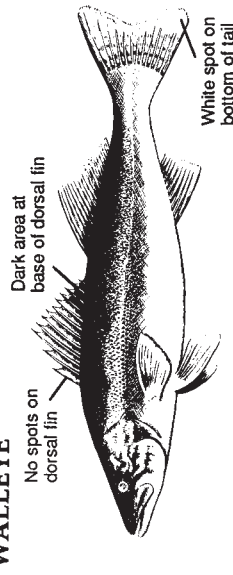
## SMALLMOUTH BASS



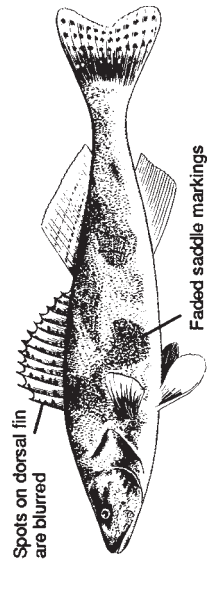
## SAUGER



## WALLEYE



## SAUGEYE





# ATTENTION ANGLERS

## HELP PROTECT TENNESSEE'S ENDANGERED STURGEON

Tennessee's big rivers are home to three species of sturgeon: shovelnose sturgeon, pallid sturgeon and lake sturgeon. ***Two of these species, the pallid and lake sturgeon, are endangered and protected by law.*** Pallid and lake sturgeon are illegal to possess and must be returned to the water unharmed, immediately after being caught.

### How can you help protect pallid and lake sturgeon?

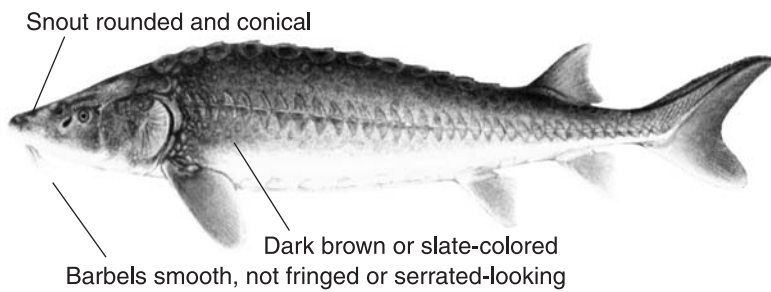
1. Know your sturgeon! All three species of sturgeon are similar in appearance, especially the pallid sturgeon and the shovelnose sturgeon. Learn how to

distinguish the three species from one another (see diagram below).

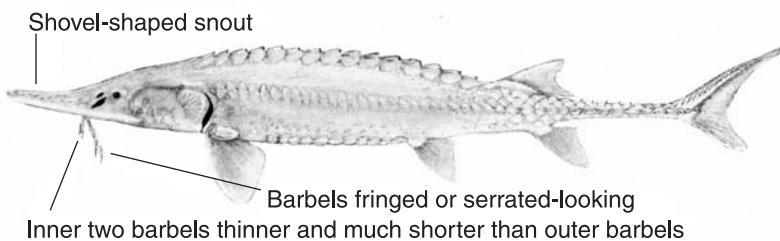
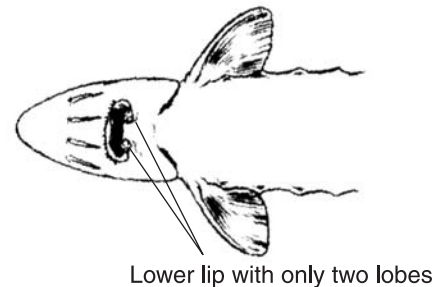
2. Report your catch or sightings of pallid and lake sturgeon to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Report any sturgeon that is tagged and the tag number.

***All pallid sturgeon and lake sturgeon must be released unharmed, immediately after being caught.***

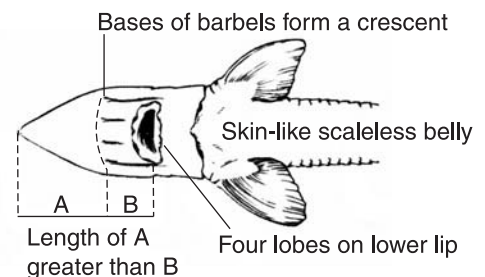
For more information or to report sightings of pallid sturgeon and lake sturgeon, contact the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.



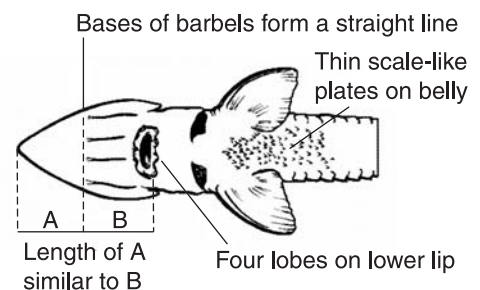
***Lake sturgeon*** can live up to 150 years, reach 8 feet in length and weigh 300 pounds.



***Pallid sturgeon*** can live more than 90 years, reach 5 feet in length and weigh 65 pounds.



***Shovelnose sturgeon*** can live more than 20 years and seldom exceed 30 inches in length or a weight of 5 pounds.



# MANNERS MATTER

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## ACCESS TO PRIVATE LAND FOR FISHING STREAMS AND PONDS

Most of the access to Tennessee streams and rivers and all farm ponds are under private ownership. Access to private property is a privilege, not a right. Taking time to request permission to private property can lead to some great fishing opportunities.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

**Ask permission in advance. Don't wait until the last minute.**

- Visit the landowner in person, rather than a phone call. This allows the landowner to see you and makes it much easier to get permission.
- Visit at a convenient time for the landowner. Right after lunch or early evening may be a good opportunity to catch the landowner. Don't go at night.
- Ask permission for a specific day and number of anglers. Keep that number as low as possible.
- Go by yourself or with your child when asking.
- The way you dress is important, so dress appropriately.

**If you get permission, follow these guidelines:**

- Be sure you know where you can and can't go, and any specific rules the landowner may have. Some pond owners need you to remove certain fish, while releasing others.
- Be sure you know where their property lines are located.
- Drive only on roads the landowner has designated.
- Leave gates just as you found them.
- Keep away from all houses, barns and livestock, and respect crops.
- Thank the landowner before you go fishing.
- Offer to return their favor with another. For example, offer to help fix a broken fence or gate.
- Report any damages to fences or livestock you see – even if it isn't your doing.
- Leave the property cleaner than you found it.
- Offer to share your catch with the landowner, preferably cleaned.
- Lastly, don't assume that permission granted one time means that you automatically have permission to return. Situations change so you should check in with the landowner regularly.

## PICK UP YOUR TRASH!

No matter where you fish, pick up your trash, especially fishing line!

Beverage bottles, bait containers, tackle packaging, and fishing line are common sights at many fishing holes. Besides trashing the area, littering has other consequences. Littering by relatively few anglers is ruining fishing opportunities for everyone. Many landowners refuse access to their land because they do not want to pick up after anglers. Littering also makes it more costly to manage public areas. We must clean up our act or we will lose even more access for fishing.

Fishing line may seem like a relatively harmless item to discard. But there is no excuse for littering. Discarded fishing line could injure or kill wildlife, and can even entangle people resulting in injuries. Take the time to put your excess line in a small plastic bag, and take it home with you. Some tackle shops even accept old line for recycling.

## BE AN ETHICAL ANGLER

An ethical angler





- learns how to fish responsibly to protect and conserve our natural resources.
- practices catch and release and selective harvest methods and knows that these methods increase survival rates of released fish and help maintain fishing success for future generations.
- is courteous and respects the rights of all resource users including other anglers, swimmers, boaters, and land owners.
- sincerely appreciates the environment and works hard to keep it clean.
- harvests fish responsibly keeping only what he or she can eat.
- knows and abides by fishing regulations which enhance and protect the resource and more evenly distribute harvests among anglers.



# HOOK, LINE AND SINKER

## FISH HOOKS

Fish hooks come in a variety of sizes and styles. When you fish with natural or live bait, a package with an assortment of hooks ranging from sizes No. 6 through No. 10 is suitable.

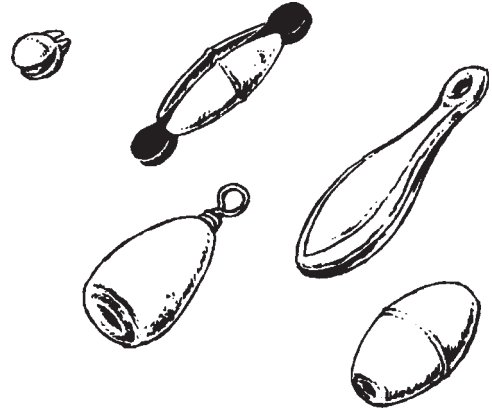
<u>Size</u>	<u>Common Uses</u>
#10 	bluegill crappie
#6 	black bass catfish
#1/0 	Bigger hooks are used to hold larger baits to catch bigger fish.
#10 treble hook 	For holding dough baits for catfish or carp

## FISHING LINE

Fishing line comes in a variety of sizes, or strengths, called pound-test. For example, ten pound-test line is stronger than four pound-test. You must match the pound-test line to the size of rod and reel, the bait you're using, and the fish you are fishing for. For example, small ultralight spincasting and spinning reels can use up to six pound-test line. Larger spinning reels can use stronger line. Bait casting reels can use from six to thirty pound-test line, but eight to sixteen pound-test lines are most common. Using heavier line than necessary may reduce the number of bites or strikes you get, because heavy line is more visible in water.

## SINKERS

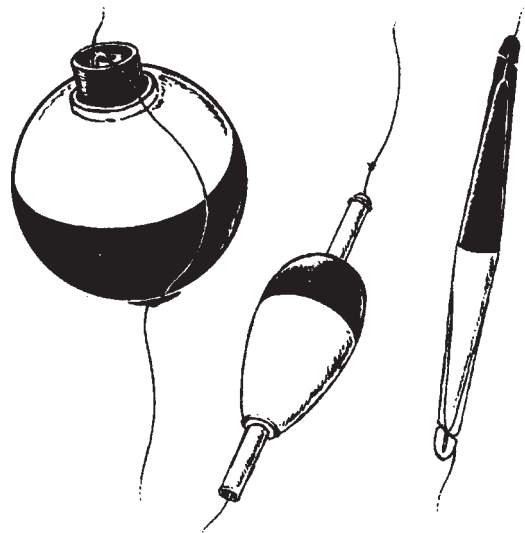
Sinkers range in size from split shot the size of a BB to weights of a pound or more. BB-size split shot to 1/4-ounce sinkers are most common. Sinkers allow you to cast your bait and help take it down to the bottom.



## BOBBERS

Bobbers are used to keep your bait at the depth you want it. They also help you to know when you have a strike. Use a bobber that's just large enough to keep your bait from dragging it under the water. Pencil style bobbers are more sensitive than round ones. Round bobbers are easier to cast. Slip bobbers can be easily adjusted to allow you to fish at different depths. Their main advantage is that they are easy to cast. They come in both round and pencil styles.

Many bobbers attach to fishing line with a spring clip and move up or down the line easily, depending on how deep you want to fish your bait.



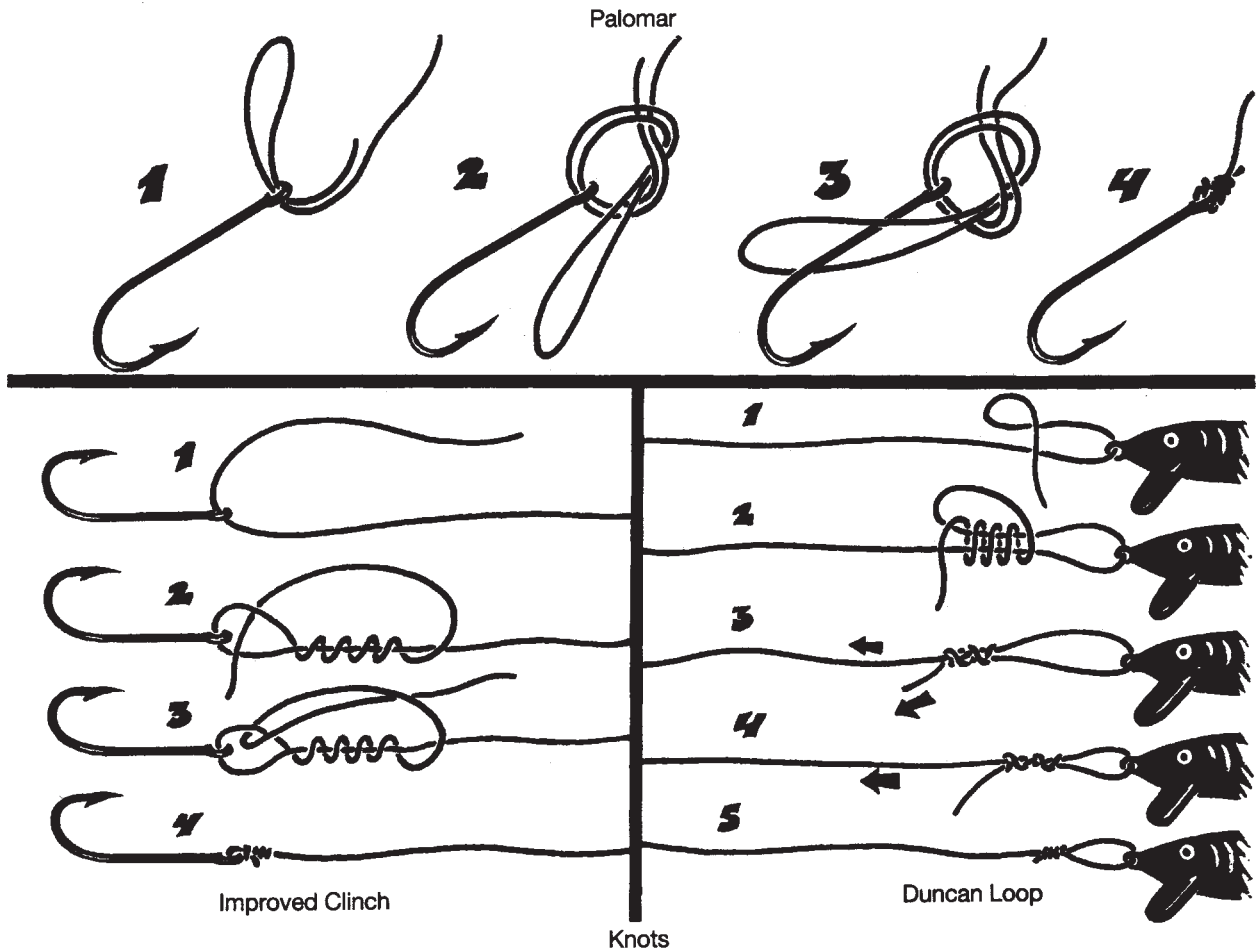


## KNOTS

To connect your line to your hook you need to learn to tie fishing knots. Although dozens of fishing knots are used, you only need to learn two or three good knots for most fishing. The drawings below show you how to tie three common knots.

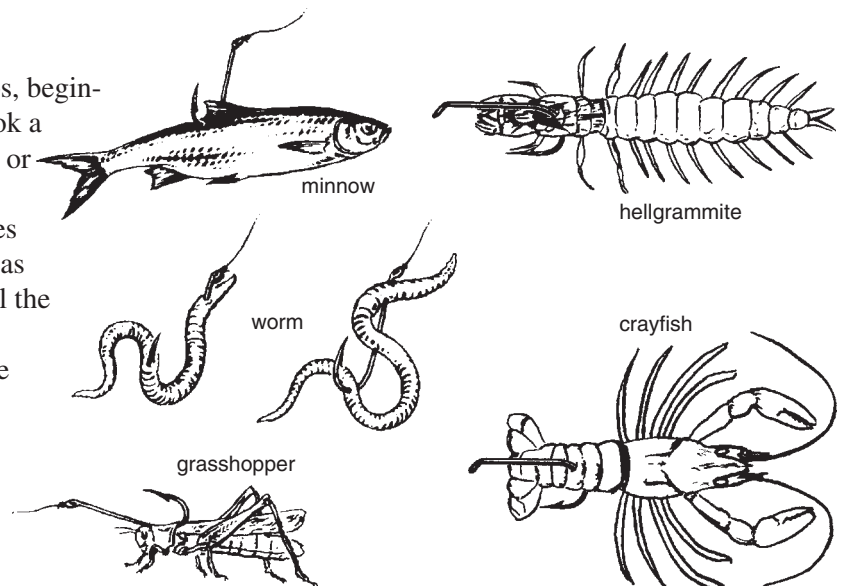
The palomar and improved clinch knots are used by many anglers for attaching hooks and lures. They are both very strong knots.

The loop knot is used for minnow type baits and diving lures. The loop allows the lure to move more freely.



## HOOKING BAIT

- Minnows may be hooked through both lips, beginning with the bottom lip. You can also hook a minnow through the tail, behind the head, or through the back (as shown).
- A worm should be hooked at several places along its body. For bait-stealing fish such as sunfish, thread the worm on the hook until the hook is completely covered.
- Hellgrammites may be hooked through the head.
- Crayfish can be hooked through the tail.



# PREVENT EXOTIC INTRODUCTIONS

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A number of exotic species are waiting to destroy Tennessee fisheries. When non-native plants, fish, crayfish, snails, mussels, or parasites enter a new river or reservoir, they can destroy the existing aquatic community. Many of these invaders have already entered our borders, so don't help them get around. Follow these guidelines to prevent the spread of exotics:

**All Anglers** – Never release live bait of any kind into the water. Never move fish or aquatic plants from one body of water to another. "Bait bucket" introductions have caused the spread of many nuisance species in Tennessee, such as blueback herring and alewives. Even the stocking of a single bass could accidentally introduce a new disease into that system.

**Boaters** – When moving your boat from one river system to another, especially if you took your boat to another state, use the following precautions:

1. **Drain** all bilge water before leaving the parking lot,
2. **Inspect** your hull, removing any clinging debris, particularly plant material,
3. **Clean** your boat, trailers, anchors, and ropes and other accessories that contact the water with:
  - a. Hot water (140 °F or hotter), **Or**
  - b. A 10% solution of household chlorine bleach or saltwater solution (1/2 cup salt to 1 gallon of water) – do this away from the water so the runoff does not pollute the river. Always follow a solution wash with a fresh water rinse. Check your engine manufacturer's guide before using the chlorine or salt solution in your cooling system. **Or**
  - c. A pressurized steam cleaning unit.
4. **Rinse** the bilge, live well pumping system and bait buckets with a chlorine or salt solution.
5. **Dry** your boat and trailer at least a week in hot dry weather, before entering another waterway. In cooler weather allow more drying time.

**Stream anglers** – Between trips from one river system to another, always wash your waders and other gear with hot water and let it dry for several hours. Especially follow these precautions if you recently fished out-of-state. There are a number of exotics that could devastate Tennessee fisheries if they were introduced.

**Zebra Mussel:** Help slow the spread of zebra mussels by following the boat cleaning guidelines. These mussels have the potential to overwhelm the aquatic community and create costly problems for water supply and power projects.

**New Zealand Mud Snail:** This snail has become so abundant in some western trout waters that they have displaced the native food supply for trout. Don't let them ruin your trout streams, keep your waders clean!

**Blueback Herring:** Releasing baitfish such as blueback herring can upset the balance of reservoir fish communities.



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## BANNED IN TENNESSEE

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It is unlawful to possess or transport the following animals.

Blueback Herring (*Alosa aestivalis*)  
Round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*)  
Rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*)  
Ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernua*)  
Bighead carp (*Aristichthys nobilis*)  
Black Carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)  
Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*)  
Snakeheads (all members of the Family Channidae)  
Swamp eels (all members of the Family Synbranchidae)  
Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*)  
New Zealand mud snail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)

For more information about the dangers of exotic species see <http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>

# BOATING SAFETY CHECKLIST

## REQUIRED BY LAW:

- ✓ Approved wearable flotation device for each person readily accessible
- ✓ Additional throwable flotation device on boats over 16 feet
- ✓ Persons 12 and under must wear a personal flotation device while underway
- ✓ Fire extinguisher if fuel tank or engine is enclosed
- ✓ Running lights after sunset or during restricted visibility
- ✓ State registration card on board
- ✓ Registration number and validation sticker displayed
- ✓ Do not operate a boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- ✓ Observe navigation rules
- ✓ Do not overload boat
- ✓ Sound signaling device

## OTHER ITEMS:

- ✓ Do not occupy ramp until boat is ready to launch
- ✓ Notify others of your schedule
- ✓ Obtain weather forecasts
- ✓ Navigation charts
- ✓ Bail bucket
- ✓ Anchor and line
- ✓ Paddle
- ✓ Secure boat to trailer after loading
- ✓ Trailer lights
- ✓ Reduce speed at night
- ✓ Check for gasoline fumes
- ✓ Motor kill switch
- ✓ 170 degree wide-angle rear view mirror

# WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!



## BOAT SMART FROM THE START.

**80% OF DROWNING  
VICTIMS IN BOATING  
ACCIDENTS WERE NOT  
WEARING A PERSONAL  
FLOTATION DEVICE.**



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

### When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.